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Jan'y 1, 1865.

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1865.

FAILURE OF THE PEACE MISSION—RETURN OF THE COMMISSIONERS.—On Monday we received, in time for insertion in about one-half only of our edition, a dispatch stating that Messrs Hunter, Stephens and Campbell had returned to Richmond, after an interview with Lincoln and Seward at Old Point, in which they were informed, in substance, that peace could only be attained by unconditional submission, and that the slavery question had been disposed of by the action of the yankee Congress, in adopting an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery.

It would be idle to say that we are not disappointed and deeply concerned at this result. The invitation given by Lincoln, through Blair, and the recognition rumors from Europe, through the yankee papers, had led us to anticipate a favorable result—that Lincoln would have been prepared to offer *some* terms which a brave and honorable people might at least take into consideration. But he either set out to practice a miserable deceit, or his views have greatly changed since he sent Blair twice to Richmond. We think the latter is the correct conclusion. According to Northern accounts (which by the way came by telegraph on Saturday last to Goldsboro' but not to Raleigh or Fayetteville,) Blair told the monstrous fiction on his return to Washington that both President Davis and Gen. Lee were prepared for submission. About the same time too, the whole Republican or abolition party in Congress set themselves against the movement, as stated in the following dispatch from Washington to the Philadelphia Inquirer of the 31st:—

"Senator Wade, in his denunciations of the Blair mission, to day, is endorsed by nearly the entire Republican delegation in both Houses, and the paragraph sent by the Associated Press agent on Saturday, proclaiming his mission a farce, was authorized by President Lincoln. This should set at rest the idle rumors of peace commissioners, &c., set on foot by speculators and circulated by those who are indisposed to see our armies filled up and the only attainable peace brought about."

So the head of a great nation performed the first part in "a farce," for beyond all question Lincoln sent Blair to Richmond and authorized him, though informally, to invite Commissioners.

Well, our hopes of peace are for the present blasted. "Unconditional submission" is out of the question. We suppose that even the most rabid peace men, so called, will agree to this. If they will, and will cease their clamors which so encourage the yankees, all will yet be well. At any rate, there is no alternative but continued war, until a higher Power than Lincoln shall command the peace. In His hand rests the issue.

LATER.—Last night we received the official statement of the Commissioners, as communicated to Congress by President Davis. It will be found below.

There are several notable points in these documents. 1st. That President Davis had "a written notification" of Lincoln's readiness to confer with our Commissioners, though at home he authorized a dispatch that it was all "a farce." 2d. That Lincoln says that not only will he enter into no negotiations with the Confederate States, but that he will enter into none with any separate State. 3d. That he will consent to no truce or armistice without a previous satisfactory assurance of unconditional submission; and that even with such an assurance, he offers no amnesty, but only a vague promise of "a very liberal use" of his pardoning power—which God forbid that he should ever have the opportunity to use. 4th. That the unconditional submission demanded must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the validity of the acts of Congress which would deprive the people of the Confederate States of properly guaranteed to them by the old constitution which they are required to re-adopt in its mutilated condition—property worth before the war four thousand millions of dollars. 5th. That the U. S Congress should have the right to legislate at its discretion on the relations between the white and black populations.

Once more the South will be a united people. No man with a soul in his body can contemplate these terms without disgust amounting to loathing. The so-called "peace" men would not believe that Lincoln's demands were so outrageous as represented by the first brief telegraphic account, and advised the public to wait for the official report: they were sure that though Lincoln wouldn't treat with Davis, he would treat with the separate States. Well, they now have the official report, signed by their Magnus Apollo, Mr. Stephens; and it is far worse than the telegraphic version. It effectually disposes of their visionary notions of treating by the States or people, and about a truce or armistice. It narrows the question down to this single and simple one: Are these peace men, so called, for the unconditional submission demanded by Lincoln, or are they for the Confederacy and resistance? This is the time for every man to answer that question to himself and to his country. There is no middle ground—no room for farther dallying. We have a strong conviction that they will answer as Mr. Stephens is answering.

We will detain the reader no longer from the important documents:—

OFFICIAL REPORT OF OUR PEACE COMMISSIONERS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—The following was laid before Congress this forenoon:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Richmond, Feb. 6, 1865.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America:

I recently received a written notification which satisfied me that the President of the United States was disposed to confer informally with any unofficial agents that might be sent by me with a view to the restoration of peace.

I requested Hon. Alex. H. Stephens, Hon. R. M. T. Hunter and Hon. J. A. Campbell to proceed through the lines to hold a conference with Mr. Lincoln or such persons as he might depute to represent him.

I herewith submit for the information of Congress the report of the eminent citizens above named, showing that the enemy refused to enter into negotiations with the Confederate States, or any of them separately, or to give to our people any other terms or guarantee than those which Congress may grant, or permit us to have peace on any other basis than that of unconditional submission to their rule, coupled with their recent legislation including an amendment to the Constitution for emancipation of all negro slaves, and with the right on the part of the Federal Congress to legislate on the subject of the relations between the white and black populations.

Such is, as I understand, the effect of the amendments to the Constitution which have been adopted by the Congress of the United States. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, Feb. 5, '865.

To the President of the Confederate States:—Sir: Under your letter of appointment of Commissioners, of the 28th, we proceeded to seek an informal conference with Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, upon the subject mentioned in your letter. The conference was granted, and took place on the 3d inst., on board a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads, where we met President Lincoln and Hon Mr Seward, Secretary of State for the United States. It continued for several hours and was both full and explicit. We learned from them that the Message of President Lincoln to the Congress of the United States, in December last, explains clearly and distinctly his sentiments as to the terms, conditions and mode of proceeding by which peace could be secured to the people, and we were not informed that they would be modified or altered to attain that end. We understood from him that no terms or proposals of any treaty or agreement, looking to an ultimate settlement, would be entertained or made by him with the authorities of the Confederate States, because that would be a recognition of their existence as a separate power, which under no circumstances would be done; and for like reasons, that no such terms would be entertained by him from States separately; that no extended truce or armistice, as at present advised, would be granted or allowed without a satisfactory assurance in advance of the complete restoration of the authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States, over all places within the States of the Confederacy; that whatever circumstances may follow from the re-establishment of that authority, must be accepted out and out. Individuals subject to pains and penalties under the laws of the United States might rely upon a very liberal use of the power confided to him to remit these pains and penalties, if peace be restored during such conference.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution, adopted by Congress, on the 31st ult., were brought to our notice. These amendments provide that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for crime, should exist within the United States, or in any place within their jurisdiction and that Congress should have power to enforce the amendments by appropriate legislation.

Of all the correspondence that preceded the conference herein mentioned, and leading to the same, you have heretofore been informed.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv'ts,
ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.
R. M. T. HUNTER.
JOHN A. CAMPBELL.

Incidents—RICHMOND, Feb'y 6—Our Commissioners were not once allowed to leave the boat at Fortress Monroe. At 9 o'clock on Friday morning Lincoln and Seward met them on board. The interview lasted 5 hours, resulting as stated in yesterday's telegram. In the course of the conversation Lincoln stated that Blair's visit to Richmond so far as it contemplated any arrangement of peace, was without his approval. Lincoln and Seward both incidentally admitted a probability of complications with foreign nations,—rather with England than France—but professed to be able to suppress the rebellion in time to meet them.

They were very courteous towards our Commissioners. Lincoln related several anecdotes. In parting Seward shook hands with Mr. Hunter "with effusion." He said "God bless you Hunter," and asked to be remembered to "all of his old friends in the South."

Lincoln did not intend to meet the Commission. But when informed that Seward was on the way, Mr Stephens telegraphed that they wished also to see the President.

The Course of Vice President Stephens—RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—It is understood that Vice President Stephens will return to Georgia in a few days to canvass the State for a vigorous prosecution of the war. He says the only hope now left for the people of the South is in "their strong arms and stout hearts."

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—This body adjourned Tuesday for a period of three months.

We have been agreeably disappointed in the present session. Its action has been in the main free from the unfavorable temper which characterized the first session. Then various movements hostile to the Confederate government found favor, and the friends of the cause had reason for painful misgivings. Not only has this spirit in a great degree disappeared, but both Houses adopted *unanimously* a resolution declaring that "North Carolina will not abate *one jot or tittle* of her determination and zeal for a vigorous prosecution of the war to an honorable peace." We are happy to infer from this most welcome change of tone, that the members found a more loyal and hopeful feeling among their constituents during their recent sojourn at home, than they had supposed to exist.

It is a cheering sign that the Legislature is bitterly assailed by the so-called peace organs, which were lavish in its praise during the first session. It could have no higher praise than the censure of these enemies to the cause of the country.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE MAGAZINE AT FORT FISHER.—A yankee paper has the following statement:

"Information has been received at the Navy Department confirming the statement that a telegraph wire was discovered, after the explosion of the magazine in Fort Fisher subsequent to its surrender, leading across the Cape Fear River and about two miles into the rebel lines. There is little doubt but that the magazine was exploded purposely by the rebels. This is an outrage of the most diabolical nature; not only upon humanity, but upon the laws of war and justice, and subjects the prisoners taken to retaliation, or, at least, should subject the officers to instant execution. If an investigation of the facts should prove to be as stated, prompt retaliation in this case will prevent other similar outrages hereafter."

This is the first we have heard of such a cause for the explosion. The yankees themselves attributed it to accident, resulting from the carelessness of their own men. But suppose the present story to be true, does it not manifest just a small degree of impudence for people who planned the mine at Petersburg, and blew up some hundred or two of our soldiers, to complain of this explosion at Fort Fisher as a diabolical outrage against the laws of war and subjecting the captured officers to instant execution? We think so. The laws of war will justify acts of defence against invaders that would be condemned when practiced by the invaders themselves. And so if our Fort Fisher officers ought to be instantly executed for adopting such a measure for defence, what should have been done with the yankees captured at Petersburg? Hanged, drawn and quartered, we suppose.

We have some notion that this yankee account may be true, for we heard of something akin to it, viz: torpedoes sunk in the ocean in front of Fort Fisher, connecting with an electric battery within the Fort, that would have sent some of the yankee ships up if they had ventured near them. How they found out that these torpedoes were there, and took care to avoid the dangerous locality, perhaps some traitor off that coast might tell.

Gen. Hood.—Lt. Gen. Hood passed through Charlotte on Sunday last, on his way to Richmond. *Charlotte Bulletin.*

"If these rumors (which may prove to be altogether idle) shall be based upon a shadow of truth, the time may have come for the Cotton States to deliberate together upon their future destinies."—*Char. Mercury.*

This is the close of a long article in the Mercury, the preceding part of which we did not read. We copy it for the purpose of calling attention to the restless and unsatisfied and never to be satisfied spirit that moves what may be called the "straitest sect" of South Carolina politicians. For forty years they assisted the yankees to break up the old government—about which we have no complaint now to make of them, for, whatever we may have thought or may now think of these joint efforts of yankees and nullifiers, we are glad to be rid of the yankees, forever and forever. But after forty years of that struggle, within less than four years after its success, and after the formation of that Southern Confederacy towards which all their efforts were directed, and upon which all their hopes were founded, what do we see? Why a proposition to secede again, if certain "rumors," which it is confessed may be "altogether idle," should prove to be "based upon a shadow of truth"!! Did mortal man ever know a case of equal folly and madness! In the midst of a stupendous struggle to make secure that government which the Mercury and its friends were the chief agents in setting up, it withdraws its help, and proposes to establish another only half as strong, comprising the "Cotton States" only! And this upon the strength of "rumors which may prove to be altogether idle."

If there is one State above all others in the Confederacy that ought never to falter—that ought to shut its ears to all "rumors" till the danger is past and the object gained—that State is South Carolina. But she is the most querulous of all. Men of that State are again foremost in the effort to pull down, without waiting to see what sort of a structure it will be when fully built up. And to assist in this process of demolition, even "rumors" that may be altogether idle are pressed into service.

YANKEE VIEW OF THE "PEACE" AGITATION.—The United States Army and Navy Gazette has a long article from which the following extract is taken. The more urgently Southern men talk about Peace, the more vigorously our invaders are encouraged to prosecute the war. The Gazette says:—

"But the most significant thing connected with this peace question, is the fact that it is agitated so vigorously, not to say vehemently, far and wide, among the people, and to some extent among the public men, of the South. Whatever may be Davis's personal action and desire, this agitation must seriously embarrass him, and in the end give him an enemy to fight to which he must succumb. It is the most encouraging development of public sentiment yet made in the progress of the war. It is an index of the breaking down of the will, the moral strength, of the people of the South, which has been effected by our grand millitary successes of the past six months. *A war simply upon the physical resources of the South could never produce such an effect;* but achievements like that of the fall of Atlanta, the march through Georgia, the fall of Savannah, the rout of Hood, the capture of Fort Fisher and the consequent closing of the port of Wilmington, together with the ominous opening of Sherman's new campaign, all combine to produce that mental despondency on the part of the people, the result of which is this shattering of the will, which has thus far sustained the rebellion; and in its train we may look for the consequent dissensions, confusion and disrupt on. It is hardly necessary, therefore, to point to the conclusion, which inevitably follows, that a continuation of the military success which has brought about the present state of affairs must necessarily prove the most potent peace-making influence which can be brought to bear at this time.

OUR POWER PRESS.—During the past week we have had extensive repairs made to our Press, by Capt. Charles R. Banks, assisted by Mr. Abearn and others of the accomplished artisans at the Arsenal and Armory. Eleven years of hard work had so worn the machine in many parts as to make us seriously fear that it would give out entirely. We trust it has secured a long "lease of life" through the skilful repairs now made. If we could renew our old type as easily, we might hope to present our readers with a better looking sheet.

During the work on our Press we were indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of the Presbyterian for the privilege of working off our edition on his Power Press.

GLUE.—A friend has left at our office, where it can be seen by any person interested, a specimen of this scarce and valuable article, made by Col Walter L. Steele of Rockingham, Richmond county. It is very handsome, quite equal to the best which we were accustomed to get in former years for making the composition rollers used in printing. We are not informed whether Col. Steele has made it, or intends to make it, upon any large scale, but surely it would pay well, for the price, whenever it can be had at all, is about eighty times the old price, that is $20 instead of 25 cents per pound.

The Charleston Courier states that Mr. Edward Barcroft, of Athens, Geo., has commenced the manufacture of glue, and will be prepared to offer it for sale so soon as the necessary process of drying will allow.

The Courier also states that Mr. J. W. Jones has made some gelatine, which is also a scarce article, and probably never before made in the Confederacy.

FORT FISHER PRISONERS.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Richmond, Va. Feb'y 6.

Messrs E. J. Hale & Sons: Gentlemen:—I have just received a letter from Capt. C. H. Blocker, stating that he, Capt. Braddy and "the boys are doing well;" also a letter just received from Lieut. John M. McKinnon, son of Mr. D. McKinnon of Gilgolis in which he says "all the officers captured at Fisher are here and are generally well." Both of these letters are written from Governor's Island, New York harbor, and are dated Jan'y 30th.

Friends of prisoners are informed that I will have tobacco (the article in demand) bought and forwarded to them, by flag of truce, upon receipt of the necessary funds. Letters may be sent me and will be forwarded by first flag.

It is confidently asserted by Col Ould, and is generally believed, that a general exchange of prisoners will be resumed at a very early day.

Please make these facts public as soon as possible.

Very respectfully, THOS. C. FULLER.

From Wilmington.—The firing yesterday forenoon was from the enemy's fleet outside against our lines at Sugar Loaf. We have heard of no casualties.

The firing, of which the reports have been heard to-day, has been at our lines at Sugar Loaf, and from the enemy's fleet at sea. No demonstration made at Fort Anderson.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Young, of the Signal Corps, captured three yankee soldiers at or within the yankee lines near Smithville: they report negro troops landing at Fort Fisher.—*Journal, 6th.*

A correspondent furnishes the Journal with the casualties on the 3d inst when the gunboats were driven off at Fort Anderson, viz: Sergeant John A. Thomas, arm, slight; privates Alfred Robeson, both arms foot and thigh, mortally; Bracy E. Jackson, left side, severe; Wm Whitaker, leg and face, slighly; Robert Green, head, dangerously, John L. Potter, leg, slightly. All from Co. B, 40th N. C. Regiment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

In the Senate, on Monday, the bill to permit the Gov't to alter the guage of the Piedmont Railroad was passed, amended so as to retain the right to require the company to restore the present guage at the end of the war. Some other unimportant bills were passed, and the Senate adjourned to the afternoon, at which time the bill to authorize the Governor to send State troops beyond the limits of the State was taken up, Mr. Dick being entitled to the floor, who spoke at some length in opposition to the bill, and was followed by Mr. Hall, who concluded by offering an amendment, as a substitute, providing that the Military Committee be instructed to report a bill to organize and consolidate all State troops, to take commissions from all Home Guard and Militia officers—put them all in camp and authorize the Governor, at his pleasure, to send them beyond the limits of the State; also to authorize the Governor to tender to the President twenty thousand able bodied negroes to be drilled and disciplined as soldiers. Mr. Ellis raised a point of order; the resolutions were decided to be out of order, and Mr. Hall withdrew them. Mr. Warren moved to amend the bill by striking out "thirty" and inserting "twenty" days as the length of time for keeping such troops out of the State. Not agreed to—yeas 19, nays 23. Mr. Pool moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill. Not agreed to—yeas 17, nays 25. Mr. Arendell moved to lay the bill on the table. Not agreed to—yeas 17, nays 25. Mr. Arendell then moved to postpone to the 3d Thursday in May. Not agreed to—yeas 17, nays 25. Mr. Bogle moved to adjourn to 7 o'clock to-morrow morning. Not agreed to—yeas 14, nays 28. Various other motions to amend, to adjourn, &c., were made and voted down. The question was finally postponed to the 3d Thursday in May, and the Senate took a recess till 7½ o'clock.

In the Commons, on Monday, Mr. Cowles offered a resolution directing the Governor to secure the speedy return of the slaves working on fortifications at Wilmington; which was adopted. A bill to amend the Home Guard law was passed. Several propositions to alter the time fixed for adjournment were voted down. Mr. Person, by leave, [the special order being suspended for 5 minutes] introduced the following resolution:

"Whereas, Authentic intelligence has been received from Richmond, that our Commissioners, Messrs Stephens Campbell and Hunter, have returned from Fortress Monroe, after having held a conference with Messrs Lincoln and Seward; and, whereas, it appears that the only terms of peace which have been offered by our enemies, are that the States and people of this confederacy shall make an unconditional submission to the Constitution and laws of the United States; and, whereas, this offer was accompanied by an announcement that the question of slavery had already been disposed of by amendments to the Constitution just passed in the Federal Congress, by which slavery has been abolished; therefore,

Resolved, That the acceptance of such offer is tantamount to subjugation, that these terms are incompatible with the dignity, honor and safety of our people, and that there is left but one alternative to us—and that is to maintain our conflict with the invader until our independence is secured, and that all the energies of Government and people ought to be put in force in order to make our defence successful.

Mr. Henry deprecated hasty action, and desired first to be assured of the authenticity of the telegraphic information on which the resolutions were predicated. Mr Phillips was opposed to precipitate action. He preferred awaiting the official report of the Commissioners. A majority had refused to lengthen the session and yet the gentleman from New Hanover would have the House act hastily on important questions. He saw no necessity for North Carolina again to define her political *status*. This, if circumstances should render it necessary, could be done with due deliberation when the Legislature is again assembled. Mr. Grissom moved that the resolutions be referred to the Committee on Confederate Relations.

The Speaker here announced that the five minutes had expired, and Mr Headen moved a still further postponement of the special order, which was not agreed to.

The House proceeded to consider the bill in regard to contracts made with reference to depreciated currency, and pending its consideration took a recess until 3½ o'clock p. m. at which time the bill was passed—what it is we do not know. The Piedmont Railroad bill [see Senate, above] and several unimportant bills and resolutions were passed, and the House adjourned to Tuesday.

In the Senate, on Monday night, the Home Guard bill was passed.

On Tuesday, there was the usual passage of resolutions of thanks in each House, and the Legislature adjourned to the 3d Thursday in May.

Correspondence of the Fayetteville Observer.

RALEIGH, Feb 8—Editors Observer: In the midst of a severe storm of sleet, hail and chilling rain the General Assembly adjourned yesterday morning at 9 o'clock. At that hour the Commons had not over a dozen members in the hall, though in the Senate things were done better, there being almost a quorum to hear Speaker Mebane's closing remarks. The adjournment is to the 3d Thursday, the 18th, of May next, unless sooner called together by the Governor, and such a contingency, it is said, is hardly within the bounds of probability.

The legislation of the session, from the 17th of last month up to the hour of adjournment, is summed up in 95 measures—57 acts having been passed and 38 resolutions. Of the acts there are only 17 that can in any way be considered of a public nature, and of the resolutions 22, the balance being strictly of a private nature. Of the public enactments the most important are as follows: To authorize the reception of partial payments of taxes from counties within the lines of the enemy; to make the Chief Clerk of the Treasurer & Commissioner of affidavits; to exempt soldiers discharged from the Confederate army for disability from Home Guard duty; to amend the charter of the Piedmont R. R. Co. (requiring a wide ing of the guage to five feet, the measure of the Richmond and Danville R. R. and return to the present guage 6 months after the termination of the present war;) to impose a penalty of $10 on each failure to work on public roads; to give till 1867 to perfect land titles; to reclaim swamp lands; to exempt State salt work employees; and to amend the Home Guard act; and resolutions instructing the superintendent to Wilmington of 10 000 lbs bacon, 10,000 bushels of corn, and 300 sacks flour; to exempt from Home Guard duty millers and artizans; to procure transportation to officers and soldiers on furlough, if indulgence; to protest against the policy of arming slaves (declared inadmissible in no contingency;) to attempt to procure the issual of supplies of clothing, food, &c., to N. C. soldiers in Northern prisons, by the Federal authorities; similar supplies to be furnished yankee prisoners at Salisbury by the State; to authorize a contract for salt for the present year with Stuart Buchanan & Co., (in case the State salt works prove unable to furnish a sufficiency;) to pay the expenses of the State Commissioners to Richmond; to furnish the Senior and Junior Reserves with medical attendance, medicines, ambulances and baggage wagons; in reference to the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, (strongly condemning the same,) to procure the return to their owners of slaves hired to labor on fortifications at Wilmington beyond necessity and stipulated time; to request the State Appraising Commissioners to allow market prices for articles impressed in case of appeals; to investigate the case of Dr. B. P. Ritter, (claimed to have been cruelly treated by Confederate officials at Weldon and Richmond;) and to appoint a committee (Messrs Ellis Leitch, Phillips, Fowle, and Brown of Mecklenburg being such committee) to investigate alleged abuses by the State railroads.

Beyond these measures and the memorable secret session, the legislation of the session has been chiefly confined to *"relieving"* Tom, Dick and Harry, passing resolutions *"in favor of"* Dick, Harry and Tom, and manufacturing magistrates, very near five hundred having been made in the last twenty odd days. So far as any expressions of opinion have been made public, the sentiment of members on the peace question appears to have undergone a great and radical change. *Peace talk* is now something no one ventures on.

From the commissioners to Richmond I learn that President Davis's health is extremely bad. He looks terribly haggard and careworn—as well he might—the noblest Roman of them all" may—and suffers so much from acute neuralgia as to be forced to wear his right arm in a sling. *"Like Cato, firm"* he is unalterably determined, as long as one shred of power remains within his grasp, to carry this war on to a successful issue. The immense influence of the man's iron will is clearly to be seen in the manner in which the State Commissioners speak of him and the profound conviction under which they seem to be that he means just exactly what he says. The conversation between him and them is understood to have been in substance an exact account of the present position of affairs in the Confederacy, its resources, needs, &c., so far as is officially known, and being of that nature will not, of course, be given to the public.

The investigation of alleged abuses and charter violations by the railroads of the State will not, it is understood, be commenced till some time in April next. Some of the charges against these corporations are certainly of a grave enough nature to need a thorough sifting, which they will doubtless receive at the hands of Mr. Ellis and his associates in the Committee.

The Home Guard law of the present session gives the Governor power to consolidate two or more companies so formed as to be not less than 64 rank and file; officers to be elected and old officers reduced; and like power as to battalions and regiments, with like disposition of officers; exempts from Home Guard duty, in addition to present exemptions, one relief commissioner to each county, the Attorney Gen'l and circuit and county Solicitors county Trustees and Surveyors, physicians of 5 years' practice, one Editor to each newspaper and certified employees, mail carriers, college professors, teachers now and hereforth having 20 scholars, operatives in foundries and factories, regular public millers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, tanners and shoemakers, having public shops, one overseer of the poor to each county. Trade exemptions—except millers—to be only to those working at trade before 1861 and since. Mill owners turning off their millers to secure exemption for themselves not to be exempt. Those exempt one not to apply to officers of the Home Guard commissioned under this act but to apply to those so reduced to ranks. No exemption from service in county of one's residence.

Congress.—RICHMOND, Feb. 6—In the Senate to-day the bill for the employment of negroes in the army was discussed and the House amendment striking out the limitation of number (40 000) was agreed to, yeas 12, nays 8. [A similar amendment had been rejected by the Senate when the bill was before it last week.] The House unanimously adopted a resolution inviting the Peace Commissioners to address the members of Congress and citizens on Capitol Square. Mr. Moore submitted a resolution directing the Committee on Military affairs to inquire into the expediency of investing the President with power to call into service all able bodied negroes in the Confederate States, to be used as he may think best to aid in the military defence of our country. A motion to lay on the table was rejected—ayes 32 noes 39. The resolution was then adopted. Mr. Chambers offered a resolution of inquiry as to the constitutional right of the Government to purchase slaves as soldiers and offer them freedom. Tabled 35 to 30.

RICHMOND, Feb 7.—In the Senate to-day Mr. Brown of Mississippi submitted the following:

"Resolved, That the Committee on Military affairs be instructed to report within the least practicable delay, a bill to take into the military service of the Confederate States a number of negro soldiers, not exceeding 200 000, by voluntary enlistment with the consent of their masters, or by conscription, as may be found necessary; that the committee provide in a bill for the emancipation of said negroes in all cases where they prove loyal and true, and for immediate payment, under proper restrictions, of their present value to their owners."

Mr. Brown said that we were in the very crisis of our fate, and in his opinion the time had come for the employment of negro troops. He had seen with pleasure the revival of the war spirit, and hoped it would sweep through the land, but still our armies were not strong enough and the negro troops were needed. The resolution was transferred to the secret calendar, and the Senate went into secret session. The House made public the subject before it in secret session for several days past viz: a tax bill to meet the discovery of an error. The Gov't is in need for immediate liabilities of $400 000 000, and the Sec'y of the Treasury recommends 100 per cent increase of the taxes to meet the deficiency. The character of the debt is such, he says, that its payment cannot be neglected or postponed without danger of serious embarrassment to the War Dep't. The House then went into secret session.

RICHMOND, Feb 8—The Senate to-day did nothing of importance. The House concurred in Senate resolutions of thanks to Captain Semmes; referred the negro bill to a committee of conference; and then discussed the Tax bill and a substitute, heretofore considered in secret session, until adjournment.

Important Movement on Foot.—We have what we consider reliable news from inside the enemy's lines, in reference to an important movement from Newbern in the direction of Goldsboro'. Grant has undoubtedly been in Beaufort. This is admitted by the Newbern Times. Our information is that he visited Newbern on last Sunday week, and had a lengthy conference with Gens. Palmer and Harland. Of the matter of conference we of course know nothing. But it is a fact that the railroad from Newbern towards Kinston is about to be re-built. The bridges are already constructed and in a condition to be put down; the iron is all in Newbern ready to be laid, and about 500 men are now employed, at Batchelor's creek, cutting crossties.

Our farther information is that a corps from Grant's army was daily expected at Beaufort, and that the railroad from Newbern to Morehead City had been seized by the military authorities, exclusively for Government business, for fifteen days. No secret seems to be made of these operations below, and it is openly stated that a movement in co-operation with Sherman is to take place immediately, and Gen. Schofield is named as the commanding General.

If our information be correct, and we are disposed to believe it so, an immediate landing of troops at Beaufort will be made, or perhaps has been made. The materials for re-building the railroad are nearly all ready. The troops will then probably push rapidly up to Kinston and cover the working parties on the road. What then? Does it not look very much like an attempt to establish a base of operations in this neighborhood, the supplies for which are to be transported from tide water by means of the railroad. While all this is the probable design of the yankee, it will be found that the design and its execution are different institutions. We are not at all alarmed or scared. There are obstacles in the yankee's track and many more to be put there.

Goldsborough State Journal, 8th.

Official from the Valley—Gen. Lee reports a recent affair in the Valley as reflecting great credit upon the officers and men engaged. About eighty of the enemy surprised our cavalry picket at Edinburg and captured a lieutenant and 14 men. Capt. Grandstaff and Lieut. Mosier, with 20 men of the Twelfth Virginia cavalry, pursued and overtook them at Woodstock, attacked and routed the party, recapturing our men and their officer, and taking 16 of the enemy, with 20 horses.

Richmond Dispatch, 6th.

Sherman's Movements—The Charleston Courier of the 6th says that the enemy crossed the Salkehatchee, flanking our forces and compelling them to retire upon Branchville. Gen Wheeler, in a sharp fight of several hours, checked the enemy with considerable havoc. No details of losses, but the enemy's known to be heavy. Our troops fell back to second line of defences. A number of prisoners were brought in on Saturday and Sunday.

Foreign Recognition.—We learn that the evening edition of the Baltimore American of Friday was received in this city on yesterday, which states that the Federal Government has been notified that its existence will only be recognized, after the 4th of March, as far as its actual civil authority extends, and that the separate nationality of the Confederate States will be recognized upon the same principle.

Richmond Enquirer, 6th.

Recognition Rumors.—Mr. A. Dudley Mann, says the Montreal (Canada) correspondent of the New York Tribune, has written from Paris to Sanders, who is now in Canada, that Napoleon has determined to recognize the Confederacy soon after the inauguration of Lincoln on the 4th of March. Mr. Mann is one of our Commissioners in Europe, and we doubt not writes what he knows to be so. We believe that England, France and Spain will recognize the Confederacy immediately after the 4th of next month. There can then be no excuse for longer withholding recognition.

Another! It is rumored (or was last night) by gentlemen who profess to have taken a peep behind the shifting scenes, that an Envoy Plenipotentiary from his Imperial Highness Napoleon the III, had arrived at Wilmington. The Exequator at Charleston is a small potato to this.—*Chas. Courier, 6th.*

MARRIED,

In this town, on Thursday the 2d inst., Mr. J. T. SELLARS to Miss ANN ELIZA OVERBY.

At LaGrange, Tenn., on the evening of December 25th 1864, by Rev. James J. Vanix, Dr. WILL. D. SOMERS, Assistant Surgeon, P. A. C. S., to Miss MARIA H. EWELL, youngest daughter of Mrs. Emily M., and the late James B. Ewell, Esq., formerly of Prince William county, Va.

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

From the United States.—Yankee Newspaper Account of the Peace Conference.—RICHMOND, Feb. 6.—The Herald of the 3d contains an account of the movements of the Peace Commission and Lincoln and speculations as to the result.

Advices from Hilton Head say that two corps of Sherman's army have advanced against Charleston.

More than 200 buildings were destroyed by the late fires in Savannah.

Lincoln has added 25 per cent. to the quota of New York under the impending draft.

RICHMOND, Feb'y 7.—The Philadelphia Inquirer of the 4th contains no news of interest. The impression at the North on the day before was that the conference at Fort Monroe would result in Peace, and nothing else was talked of. Gold closed, however, at 207.

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.—New York papers of the 6th contain voluminous telegrams from Washington relative to the result of the Peace Conference. A special to the Times says:

"Lincoln informed the Commissioners at every point that reconstruction was utterly out of the question: that the United States could stop the war only on the condition precedent that the authority of the National Gov't should be recognized and obeyed throughout the whole territory of the U. S. This point conceded, he assured them that upon every other matter of difference they would be treated with the utmost liberality."

Another telegram says: "Mr Stephens was the most liberal of the rebel deputation. His theory was that if we would but treat with them as an independent nation such an agreement could be had as would practically unite the North and the South."

A special to the Tribune says: "Mr Stephens surpassed all his old exhibitions of abnormal force and tact, in putting forward the demands of the Confederacy. In the midst of his exposition, at the conclusion of one of his points, Lincoln sprung forward, interrupting him with "that reminds me of a story of a man in Illinois," and the commissioners instantly jumped up in a roar of merriment. After the story, Mr. Stephens resumed and finished his statement of terms on which he thought the rebels would be willing to stop the war. He proposed and urged his crafty scheme of temporary recognition, but on recognition absolutely if temporary the three commissioners stood like rocks. The result of the conference is a union of all parties in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war. Fernando Wood took the war-path on Saturday, and Cox of Ohio and other democrats take it to-morrow."

Gold opened in New York on Monday at 214. Foster has been superseded by Gilmore in the command of the Dep't of the South. The Legislature of West Virginia has passed a bill abolishing slavery.

Great Public Meeting in Richmond.—Speeches by President Davis and Gov Smith.—RICHMOND, Feb'y 7.—In pursuance of a call, Gov. Smith addressed an immense public meeting last night at the African Church. The meeting adopted a series of patriotic resolutions, the last as follows:

"Resolved, That in this presence and in the face of the world, reverently invoking the aid of Almighty God, we renew our resolve to maintain our Liberties and our Independence; and to this end we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

President Davis then addressed the meeting for half an hour. He was rejoiced, he said, to witness this demonstration, and believed that if the people would heartily respond to the demands of the present exigency the enemy would next ask a conference in which to make known *our* demands. For himself, his life was bound up in the Confederacy, and under no circumstances would he again be for reconstruction and union. The President was frequently interrupted with enthusiastic cheering. Several other addresses followed, and a call is published for another mass meeting on Thursday.

Battle near Petersburg.—Death of Gen. Pegram.—RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—The following was received to-day:—"HEADQUARTERS, Feb. 6 Gen. S Cooper:—The enemy moved in strong force yesterday to Hatcher's Run. Part of his infantry, with Gregg's cavalry, crossed and proceeded on the Vaughan road—the infantry to Cattail creek, the cavalry to Dinwiddie C. H, where its advance encountered a portion of our cavalry and retired in the afternoon.

"Parts of Hill's and Gordon's troops demonstrated against the enemy, on the left of Hatcher's Run, near Armstrong's Mills, but finding him entrenched they withdrew after dark.

"During the night a (yankee) force that had advanced beyond the creek returned to it and were reported to be crossing this morning.

"Pegram's (Confederate) division moved down to the right bank of the creek to reconnoitre, when it was vigorously attacked. The battle was obstinate and the contest lasted several hours, but Gen. Pegram being killed while bravely encouraging his men, and Col Hoffman wounded, some confusion occurred and the division was pressed back to its original position. The division commanded by Gen. Gordon was ordered to the support of Gen. Pegram and charged the enemy and forced him back, but in turn was compelled to retire. Mahone's division arriving, the enemy was driven rapidly to his defences at Hatcher's Run.

"Our loss is reported small, that of the enemy not supposed to be great. R. E. LEE."

RICHMOND, Feb. 8.—An official dispatch from Gen. Lee says: "The enemy made no advance from his position on Hatcher's Run yesterday. His skirmishers were pushed forward against some points of our lines but made no attack."

PETERSBURG, Feb. 8.—There was heavy cannonading yesterday afternoon, our artillery shelling the enemy's lines. There has been no fighting to-day, and once more all is quiet.

The enemy maintains his position on Hatcher's Run, whereby his lines are extended but not advanced. He is erecting observatories on our right, and both sides are strengthening the new lines.

In the fight on Monday Gen. Scotch, of Ala., was wounded, not mortally in the lungs, and Col. Hobson of Va. was killed. Our loss will reach 200. The enemy's loss is estimated at treble that number. The dead have all been buried and the wounded brought from the field.

From South Carolina.—CHARLESTON, Feb. 8.—A dispatch from Gen'l Wheeler, dated Holmes's Bridge, Feb'y 7, 9 20 P. M., says: "My pickets near Blackville were charged this morning by three brigades of cavalry and driven beyond the village. Dibrell's Tennessee brigade, being in the vicinity, met and charged the enemy, driving them back into the village."

A dispatch from Branchville this morning says: "The enemy made their appearance along the S. C. railroad beyond Edisto and burned a house within 1½ miles of the R. R. bridge. About 7 P. M. yesterday our troops were withdrawn to this side of the bridge and the bridge burned." [This breaks the railroad communication between Charleston and Augusta.]

From the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—Our scouts, in the Valley, report that the Yankees are tearing up the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Harper's Ferry to Martinsburg, and laying a track from Cumberland to Frederick City.

*Rich. Sentinel,

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The Richmond Sentinel of the 8th brings us an account of the great mass meeting held on Monday night in response to the Governor's call. The Governor opened the proceedings, with a brief and stirring speech, proposed the resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, and then, the Sentinel says:

His Excellency, the President of the Confederate States, being on the stand, was loudly called for, and went to the front His appearance was the signal for prolonged and enthusiastic cheering. Round after round of cheers went up from all parts of the building, and every vocal energy of the vast assembly seemed taxed to its utmost in swelling the tremendous acclamations The President meantime gracefully bowed his thanks to the different parts of the audience; and after the inspiring outburst of sympathy and enthusiam had at length subsided, he proceeded to address the assembly. We pretend to no more than to give the substance of some of his remarks.

The President said that if he were there to assist in celebrating some great and decisive victory to our arms, or in hailing the establishment of peace, he should have been most happy. But, in times like those which are now upon us—when dangers confront us and our path is beside the lee shore and the breakers—to witness the manifestation of such a spirit on the part of his countrymen as was there displayed, was more than happiness—it was *ecstatic joy*. He had always looked with pride upon his countrymen. He had rejoiced in their patriotism and their courage But he was prouder still when he contemplated the fortitude which plucks flower from reverses, and bears high with hope in the presence of fresh calls upon its courage and endurance.

The President said it was meet that the spirit which inspired this meeting, should find its first utterance in Richmond Here every day were heard the cannons of the enemy. Innumerable hillocks in the neighboring cemeteries, tell of the brave men from every State in the Confederacy who have given their lives for their country. On one of the hills of this city stands that sacred building in which Patrick Henry and his compatriots pledged life for liberty. Here, too, was the Capitol of the Confederacy and of that proud old State, which had been truly termed the "mother of statesmen." If the spirit which has been here indicated shall meet with a general response, and prove to be the universal sentiment of the land, of which he did not doubt, then, indeed, would he feel that we are on the very verge of success. [Loud cheers] We should not again be insulted by such terms of peace as the arrogance of the enemy has lately proposed; but ere many months had elapsed, our success would cause them to feel that when talking to us they were talking to their masters. [Great applause]

Does any one, he inquired, who has seen the Confederate soldiers, believe they are willing to fail? If so, the suspicion is most unjust! Go to our camps; go to our guarded lines; go where our pickets hold their dangerous watch, and to the posts where our sentinels tread their weary rounds, and you will find in none of those, the place for grumblings and complaints The resolutions of our soldiers exclaim with Patrick Henry, "Victory or death!" It is in the crowded mart, where these are found whose pockets are stuffed with ill-gotten gains, that you find the persons who grumble and complain [Applause] The progress of events had, however, brought a pressure even upon these which would urge them to their duty. Their treasure is in danger, and their only security for it is in performing their duty to their country

The time for argument, said the President, is passed The duty that remains is to stand to our arms He had just made an effort to secure peace, as he had done several times before. He had made it in the cause of humanity and the country At the very organization of our Government, in Montgomery, his first care was to send Commissioners to Washington They were rejected At a later period, he had requested the second officer under the Government (Vice President Stephens) to seek a conference; the avowed object being to make arrangements for the proper treatment and exchange of prisoners, but in addition to, and behind that, it was the object to institute, if possible, negotiations for peace. But our Vice President was refused an audience; not even allowed to approach the throne Since that time he had in various ways, and on every proper occasion, proclaimed the desire of this country for peace, and his own anxiety to secure it, but until lately, no opening had presented for an advance toward negotiation. This recent opportunity he had embraced. He did it in the hope that some plan of accommodation might be agreed upon He would be less than man if he had not felt an earnest desire, a yearning anxiety, to relieve the country from the sufferings of the war, and to send our soldiers to their homes Anything honorable, and recognizing our independence as a basis, would have been gladly acceded to. The person did not know him who might suppose that, under any circumstances, he would consent to reconstruct the late Union.

We had now framed the terms on which the enemy are willing to accord peace We are required to make an unconditional surrender. We are not even allowed to go back to them as we came out, but are required to take just what a conqueror may choose to give the conquered.

Man proposes, but God disposes. Relying on the courage and devotion of his countrymen and reverently appealing to Heaven for its aid to our cause, the President said his confidence was firm, that God would abase the arrogance of our enemies and crown our exertions with triumph

President Lincoln had, indeed, promised, that in the enforcement of his laws for the confiscation of our property and the hanging of our officers, his policy would be "liberal." [Laughter] Beecher in a late sermon at Washington had pictured a long line of rebels on their way to the gallows; and President Lincoln's heart had, perhaps, softened at the length of the procession. The leaders whom they propose to hang are your servants, and they are not worthy to be your servants, the President said, unless they were willing to be sacrificed in your cause, even unto death [Applause]

If the power of the enemy were ten times greater, and ours ten times less than it is, there are still some rights of which they could not dispossess us; the right to maintain our personal honor, and the right to fill an honorable grave [Loud applause] If faithful to the end, we shall stand proud among the proudest of earth. Never before have any people remained so closely united, in so long a war. Never before have a country's best citizens composed its armies. Our revolutionary forefathers were not united in a concord so perfect as ours—though it is true they had less pressure upon them, the British rulers being more humane than those of our present enemies, and their generals belonging to a school that recognized the amenities of war History affords no parallel, the President continued, to the struggle which our country is making—to the cheerfulness with which our people have borne sacrifices, and the courage with which our armies have marched to the harvest of death. It was this magnanimous spirit which sustained him in the confidence that we should triumph in the end. We have been chastened, and may be again. Let us profit by the lesson reverses are designed to teach, that we are not to serve a friend merely because he is such, or strike an enemy when we might serve the country.

The President here said that his failing strength admonished him to close his remarks; but he yielded to loud requests to "go on." We must, he said, look shields together and go forward to save our country, or sink together to honorable graves. [Loud applause.] He was not of those who had expected no discord and no parties, but if our disagreements result from passion we must exercise it, and make the good of our country our sole aim. If we will all do our duty, we shall reap a brilliant reward. If the absentees, from our armies will return, and if the local assistance be rendered which may be readily afforded, the noble Army of Northern Virginia will read General Grant a yet severer lesson than it taught him from the Rapidan to the James; while the gallant Beauregard will cause Sherman's march across Georgia to be his last.

We had, said the President, in the conduct of the enemy wherever they had gained temporary rule over our people, the signs of what they would do in case of our subjugation: Thus warned we were forewarned. Happy in such a case would be those who had fallen in the fight—the miserable would be the survivers.

In conclusion, the President said, he had gratifying proofs of the spirit which animated the people whom he addressed. He had seen even the old men upon duty, careless alike of the piercing blast and whistling bulle'; and your woman have declared that they will fight the battle if you should recoil! God bless your proud spirit and manly fortitude! History will delight to dwell upon your praise!

The law and the officers of the law, could not accomplish everything: there was much that could be effected only by a sound public obinion. Public opinion must make it a shame and disgrace for a man to skulk from his duty, or to inquire not what he is *able* to do, but what the law will *make* him do! Our women must take broomsticks and drive absentees and stragglers to their duty [loud cheers] We have one cause to sustain, one country to defend. He who falls on the soil of Louisiana, or sheds his blood on the soil of North Carolina or Virginia, is alike an honored martyr The inquiry among us must be not what service we can escape, but instead of that a generous rivalry among citizens and States which shall do *most*, and give most to the cause. [Loud applause]

The President resumed his seat amid loud and enthusiastic cheerings

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Gen. Pegram.—Brig. General John Pegram, killed near Petersburg last week, was a native of Richmond, and early in the war was commissioned as Lieut. Colonel, and marched with the 20th regiment Virginia Volunteers to Northwestern Virginia under Brig. Gen Garnett; captured at Rich Mountain, he spent a long imprisonment in the hands of the enemy, and upon his exchange was promoted to Colonel and assigned to engineer duty in the West. Promoted soon to Brigadier General, he commanded a cavalry brigade during the Kentucky campaign, and afterwards was transferred to the army of Virginia, and assigned to the brigade formerly commanded by Brig. Gen. Smith; he was wounded in the Wilderness, and since his return to duty, commanded a division in the army of Gen Early. He fell at the head of his division, repelling an assault of the enemy, and died a few hours after. Less than a month ago he led to the altar his young bride, now left an early widow.—*Rich. Enquirer*.

Col F M Parker.—Col. F M Parker, late of the 30th N. C. T., of Cox's (Ramseur's) Brigade, has been retired from active duty, on account of wounds received, and ordered to report to Gen Holmes, who has given him general superintendence of Enrolling offices in the 1st and 2d Districts of this State. Col. P. is a brave and efficient officer, and he will be greatly missed by his gallant regiment, who loved him with filial love.—*Raleigh Confederate*.

Gen. Grimes Promoted.—Brig. Gen. Bryan Grimes has been made a Major General, and assigned to Rodes's Division, of Early's (Ewell's) corps. The division consists of two North Carolina, one Georgia, and one Alabama Brigade. Gen Grimes is an excellent officer, and will admirably fill the place of the gallant and lamented Rodes.—*Raleigh Confederate*.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

WILMINGTON

Messrs. E J Hale & Son: Please let me return thanks through your paper, to Mrs J H. Hawley for the large package of clothing for the destitute soldiers consisting of socks, gloves, comforts shirts and vests. Many a soldier has thanked this benevolent lady for comforts and luxuries May her son as brave a boy as ever lived, never be slain in battle but be spared as a monument to the memory of his devoted mother. L. C.

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Feb'y 8. 8-2tod

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W H. BERNARD, Editor and Proprietor.

Feb'y 2. 6-1m

ESTRAYS.

ESCAPED from a drove of animals being brought hence from Robeson county, N. C., about the 19th of Dec'br ult, two MULES, coupled together with rope; the one a medium sized bay Mule, about 12 years old, in good order and strongly saddle marked. (This mule was impressed by me from Mr. Peter Smith, below Lumberton.) The other a small light bay Mule, about 7 years old and thin; being the mule impressed from Solomon Oxendine, free negro, near Moss Neck Depot C. W. & M. R. R.

These mules escaped from my drove at night near the Richmond county line below Laurel Hill.

Also, two Mules that escaped or were taken from my lot in this place about 24th December last; the one a small bay Horse Mule, neatly trimmed. A description of the other not remembered, but both are supposed to have been branded C. S., upon the left shoulder.

A liberal reward will be paid for any information that may lead to the recovery of either or all of these Mules J. B GOODLOE, Capt. & A. Q. M.

Ansonville, Jan'y 28, 1865. 8 2w

The Enterprise Cotton Factory

is now prepared to exchange for corn or bacon the

Finest Numbers of Spun Yarn,

suitable for Spring and Summer Cloth. This Thread is of a superior quality, not surpassed by any in the Confederacy.

GEO. BRANDT.

Fayetteville, Jan'y 6

SCENE IN THE YANKEE CONGRESS

The yankees have performed another grand Chinese feat. They have amended the Constitution so that it will do what their armies cannot—abolish slavery. The remarkable and rather laughable scene took place in their House of Representatives on the 31st of January. The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald thus describes the event:

"A large number of prominent politicians, from different sections of the country, wandered around the cloak room, which seemed to indicate that the floor was free to everybody. State officials and members of Congress, Senators, Cabinet officials and judges, all mingled together, manifesting a deep interest in the event of the hour. There was Postmaster Dennison, with his straight form, long locks, tinged with gray, moving about with an apparently light heart. There was the Secretary of Finance, Mr Fessenden, wearing an anxious face, and looking as though a mighty weight rested upon his shoulders. Beside him sat Chief Justice Chase, with a countenance full of hope, apparently unconcerned in regard to the events of the hour, but in reality as deeply interested as any person present. Around the locality were gathered numerous public men of note, as well as many yet unknown to fame, forming an interesting group.

"The Republican side of the House appeared somewhat agitated. Mr Ashley of Ohio, being the person recognized as the leader and mouthpiece of the party on this question, groups of members were constantly gathering about his seat. Every few moments members would approach his seat, and there would be a close examination of the list, the absentees carefully noted, and the changes from the Democratic side counted On several occasions deep anxiety was manifested "It was first agreed that the vote should be taken at three o'clock. The debate was continued when that hour arrived. A Democratic member had the floor and desired further time to conclude. The Republicans clamored for a vote, and the Democrats persisted in not being cut off. Mr. Ashley finally yielded, and consented that the vote should be taken at half past three, or postponed half an hour. This appeared to arouse the anger of the many Republicans, and an interesting group gathered around Mr Ashley's seat. There was Thad Stevens, got up in full fighting trim from his waist up, shaking his finger at Mr. Ashley for giving way and reading him a lecture. Stevens's face looked fire, while Ashley's was as red as a fresh cut of beef. Other members cried, "Mr Speaker, let us have the vote," and were determined, if possible, to have a vote. The excited Republicans finally yielded, Stevens taking his seat, but evidently with no good grace.

"On the Democratic side there was considerable commotion. George H. Pendleton was constantly passing around among the members in consultation with them, and seemed to pay his special attention to those Democrats who, it was said, would cast their votes for the amendment. There was Harris, of Maryland, with the muscles of his face twitching and looking daggers towards the Republican side. The movements everywhere indicated that momentous events were about taking place.

"Half past three arrived. An effort was made on the Democratic side to postpone the vote to another day Almost every Republican member jumped to his feet, and the cries of 'No, no; vote, vote,' rung through the hall. At length the calling of the roll commenced. The first motion was to lay on the table. The Democrats, with one or two exceptions, voted for this and solid against the Republicans The Republicans being a majority, the motion to table was lost. Then came the question of reconsidering the vote of last year by which the vote was lost. On this, the Democrats voted nearly solid against reconsidering. At this stage there was no indication by the vote that the amendment was really to pass. On the motion to reconsider the majority lacked some three votes necessary to pass the amendment, or two thirds of all present. Then came the vote on the final passage Perfect silence, for the first time, reigned. The response of every member was watched, and as one by one the Democrats changed front, there was an expression of joy on the Republican side. Boldly, and like men fully realizing the important step, did Ganson, Radford, Nelson, Steele, Rollins, Yeaman, English and others respond to their names. It was no faint whisper. They responded like men who had weighed carefully the subject, taken their position after mature deliberation, and were ready to take the consequences It was an important step. In taking it, and responding in the affirmative, however, they only did that which many others on the Democratic side wanted to do, but had not the courage, the heart, to say aye.

"The roll was concluded The honored names were all recorded, hereafter to be handed down in company with those who first recorded their names for that noble instrument Long before it was announced, the expression of the faces of those on the Republican side showed too plainly the result, and that their joy was only being pent up, ready to burst forth the moment that the result was announced. The sharp tone of the Speaker's voice was soon heard announcing the vote. In a louder, deeper and heavier tone than usual with him, Speaker Colfax announced—"Having received a two third vote, the amendment has passed."

"Then came a wild scene on the floor of the House. Republican members waved their hats and cheered, the galleries took up the cry, handkerchiefs waved in the air, cheers echoed through the halls, and all dignity of the occasion seemed to be forgotten. Members were dancing, pulling each other around and performing all manner of antics. Among the most amusing was the scene between Mr. Brandegee and Mr. Spaulding. They went through shaking of hands, hugging each other, and other wild demonstrations, finally closing up with rapturous kissing.

"The Democrats, during all this, sat in sullen silence, evidently disgusted at the lack of dignity on the floor, even those who voted for the amendment feeling that the Republicans were disgracing themselves. It was certainly in bad taste. It was a triumph well worth rejoicing over; but let that rejoicing, let the jubilee, be postponed and held in some other place more befitting than the House of Representatives. The booming of cannon was soon heard in honor of the event."

The joint resolution proposing the anti-slavery amendment to the Constitution of the United States was introduced by Senator Henderson, of Missouri, in January 1864.

The Herald says that Mr. Seward attached great importance to the passage of this proposition through Congress, as the initial point for negotiations for peace with Jeff Davis on the basis of a reconstruction of the Union.

The peace negotiators of Savannah could not bear to have a Confederate provost marshal. It was despotism. Now they have provost guards stationed in every section of the city, about a hundred yards apart, and they are required to thank Gen. Geary for the privilege. This is their transition from despotism to freedom.

Macon Confederate.

For Rent,

A WAREHOUSE. Will store from 500 to 1000 bales cotton.

E. F. MOORE.

Feb'y 10. 9-1m

MORE LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Raleigh Progress gives the following list of Acts and Resolutions passed at the late session of the Legislature:

An act to increase the efficiency of the Home Guard organization.

To authorize the magistrates of Alamance county to levy a tax for the support of families of soldiers.

To authorize the sheriff of Surry county to collect arrearages of taxes

To incorporate the Big Falls toll bridge company

To amend the charter of the Pittsboro' and Haywood plank road company

To incorporate the Haw River toll bridge company

To authorize an increase of the capital of the Monotock mining and manufacturing company

To incorporate the Conservative Publishing company.

To enlarge the chartered privileges of the Trustees of Yadkin College, in the county of Davidson.

For draining swamp lands

In reference to the town of Kinston.

For the relief of such persons as may suffer from the burning of the Court-house and records of Buncombe county.

To extend the time for perfecting titles to entries of lands [To Feb'y 8, 1867]

To extend the time for perfecting titles to lands heretofore entered [To Jan'y 1, 1867]

To amend the Revenue law [Reduces the tax on private corporations incorporated by special act, from $1 000 to $800]

To increase the penalty for failing to work on public roads, and to provide for the collection of the same [Penalty $10 to be collected on warrant before any Justice of the Peace]

In relation to Cherokee lands.

To give jurisdiction to the Superior Court of Wilson county over crimes committed in counties within the enemy's lines

To amend the charter of the town of Salisbury.

To authorize the widening of the guage of the Piedmont road

In regard to Justices of the Peace in Pasquotank

To restore jury trials in certain civil cases in the Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions of Chatham county.

To increase the power of the commissioners of the town of Greensboro'.

To prevent persons from placing obstructions in the North-east branch of the Cape Fear river.

In relation to the delivery and execution of process in Jones county

For the relief of the sheriff of Beaufort.

Concerning roads.

To charge the name of the "North Carolina Express company," to the "People's Express company."

To authorize the county court of Surry to elect Wardens of the poor

To prevent obstructions to the passage of fish up Newbegun creek

Concerning Justices.

To exempt discharged soldiers from Home Guard duty

To allow fifteen magistrates of Halifax county to transact county business.

To arrange the public offices in the Capitol. [Gives the Geological room to the Comptroller, and the Comptroller's present room to the Treasurer. Donates the Geological and other specimens to the University]

Concerning salaries and fees [Gives the following for the year 1865: Governor $15 000; a Counsellor of State $40 per day when engaged in public business and 30 cents per mile to and from his home; Judges $7 000 each: Treasurer $7 500; chief clerk to the Treasurer $3,500; second clerk $2 500; Secretary of State $3 500, and four times the fees heretofore allowed; Comptroller $3,000, and his clerk $2 500. Governor's private Secretary $2 500 and quadruple fees; Supreme Court Reporter $1,500. Clerk to the Supreme Court $1,500 and quadruple fees; Marshal $15 per day while attending the courts; County and Superior Court Clerks, Sheriffs, &c., quadruple fees; State salt commissioner $3 000 and traveling expenses; Surgeon General the pay of a Brigadier and traveling expenses; State Auditor $4 500, his 1st clerk $3 000; his 2d clerk $1,500; Superintendent of Common Schools $2 500. Keeper of the Capitol $1 500; Adjutant General the pay of a Major General; Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and their Clerk each $10 per day while engaged in public business.

To prevent obstructions in the Yadkin River.

RESOLUTIONS.

In regard to slaves at work on fortifications near Wilmington [Provides for their return to their masters]

Concerning the sheriff of Davie county. In favor of E D Davis sheriff of Jackson county In favor of J. M Towles. To pay Drury King for acting as Doorkeeper. To allow the Clerks $800 each for copying their journals In favor of the Old Dominion Trading company. To pay the clerks and doorkeepers Instructing a joint select committee in regard to actions by railroad companies In favor of the commissioners of the Sinking Fund and the Secretary to the Board [Allows the same pay as members of the Legislature] Relating to the suspension of *habeas corpus* To allow members of the Legislature the same pay as allowed at last session [Fifty dollars per day and fifty cents per mile] In regard to the arrest of Dr. Henry P Ritter. In favor of the sheriff of Iredell. To pay the Commissioners sent to Richmond In favor of the Doorkeepers to pay servant hire In favor of the sheriff of Montgomery Not to abate preparations for war during negotiations for peace. Authorizing the Governor to contract with Stewart, Buchanan & Co., for a supply of salt. To subpoena the Governor to furnish blankets, &c., to Federal prisoners at Salisbury, in consideration of the same number furnished North Carolina prisoners by the Federal government Against the policy of arming slaves In favor of Messrs Calvert and Rogers, contestants from Northampton county. To pay the Principal of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum for a Calendar book. Instructing the Governor to procure suitable accommodations, medicines, &c., for the Junio and Senior Reserves In favor of the Principal Clerks [Allows them $400 each for copying journals of the last session]

THE NEW HOME GUARD LAW.

SEC. 1 Be it enacted, &c., That the Governor, whenever he deems it expedient, may reorganize the Guard for Home Defence, by causing two or more companies to be consolidated into one, so as to make not less than sixty four men, rank and file, to each company: Provided, however, that if there are not sixty home guards in any one county, that such number as may be shall be incorporated into a company. The said companies, when so consolidated, shall have the privilege of electing their company officers from the rank and file of said companies; and such officers as shall not be elected for service in said company shall be required to perform service as non commissioned officers or privates, under the same rules and regulations as other non commissioned officers and privates are required to serve, and whilst so serving their commissions shall be suspended.

2. That the Governor may in like manner, cause two or more battalions or regiments of Home Guards to be consolidated; said battalions, when so consolidated, to be composed of not less than three companies, and said regiments, when so consolidated, of not more than ten companies; that the rank and file shall elect their field officers, and all field officers who shall not be elected, their commissions shall be suspended, and they be required to perform duty in the ranks as non-commissioned officers and privates.

3. That in addition to the exemptions mentioned in the second section of an act in relation to the Militia and Guard for Home Defence, ratified 7th July, 1863, there shall be exempt one Commissioner to each County, appointed under an act entitled "an act for the relief of wives and families of soldiers in the army;" the Attorney General; Solicitors for the several Circuits and Counties; County Trustees: County Surveyors; Physicians of five years' practice; one Editor to a newspaper and necessary compositors and employees, to be certified to on oath by the Editor; mail carriers; professors in colleges, and teachers who at the passage of this act had, and shall continue to have, twenty scholars; the necessary skilled operatives in factories and foundries; regular public millers and blacksmiths, and wheelwrights who have established shops; regular public tanners and shoemakers, and one overseer of the poor of each County: Provided, all the tradesmen thus exempted shall be skilled in their respective trades, and were employed in the same prior to the 1st Jan. 1864, and have continued to be so employed since that time; except public millers, who shall be exempt whenever they are so engaged unless it shall appear that owners of mills have turned off their millers and gone in themselves to evade the service, then such owners not to be exempt: Provided, that the exemptions in this act shall not apply to Home Guard Officers commissioned under this act to serve in the ranks, and who would be entitled to exemption if they did not hold commissions: and provided further, that no provision of this act shall be construed so as to exempt any person herein mentioned from Home Guard Duty in the County in which he resides

4 That all laws and clauses of laws coming in conflict with this act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

5. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified in General Assembly this 7th day of February, 1865.

TAXATION AND FINANCE

The House of Representatives on the 8th, made public the subject which has for some days engaged their attention in secret session, when it appeared that the topic was a Tax Bill, to meet a condition of things contingent upon the discovery that an enormous mistake had been made in the sum of the Government's immediate liabilities. The present Secretary of the Treasury, it seems, was led into an error by his predecessor, in stating the amount of the arrear of indebtedness, in his report at the opening of Congress, at $114,000,000. Additional liabilities, in the nature of cash transactions, have already been ascertained to the amount of nearly $100 000,000. To provide for this increase of debt, Mr. Trenholm states there is no resource but taxation, and he recommends the imposition of 100 per cent additional on all present subjects of taxation, and the withdrawal of the credit for the tax in kind. In conformity with this recommendation, the Committee of Ways and Means have reported a bill, which has been the subject of discussion for some days, its principal advocates having been Mr. Lyon, of Ala., Mr Colyar, of Tenn., Mr Baldwin, of Va., and Mr. Gilmer of N. C. The bill provides:

That upon all subjects of taxation under existing tax laws levying taxes for the present year, except as hereinafter otherwise provided, there shall be assessed and levied an additional tax of 100 per centum upon the present tax on the same subjects of and for the year 1865, including the specific taxes and all taxes on sales during the year 1865, whether made before or after the passage of this Act, and not expressly excepted or otherwise provided by this Act; which tax shall be payable in Confederate Treasury notes of the new issue at par, or in the certificates of indebtedness authorized by "An Act to reduce the currency and authorize a new issue of notes and bonds," approved February 17, 1864, at the rate of 105 for every 100 dollars of said certificates; but without any allowance for interest; and the same shall be collected at the same times with the other taxes on the same subjects under existing laws. And where any tax for 1865 has been collected prior to the passage of this Act, the 100 per cent additional tax thereon shall be collected as soon as practicable after its passage

Sec. 2 That the provisions to the 1st paragraph of the 1st section of the Act passed the 14th day of June, 1864 entitled "An Act to amend the tax laws," and the 2 paragraph of the 8th section of the said act be and the same are hereby repealed; saving, however, to all persons, all rights heretofore accrued to them by virtue of the same

Sec 3. In the year 1865 and in each succeeding year thereafter during the continuance of the existing war between the United States and the Confederate States, there shall be levied and collected the tax inkind on the products of property employed in agriculture as now provided by law, without deduction or abatement from the assessed tax on the property so employed.

Sec 4. In and for the year 1865 there shall, instead of the income tax now provided by law, be levied and collected a tax of 20 per cent on the gross amount of all incomes derived from property other than that employed in agriculture, or derived from any source or subject from which a tax on income is now provided by law; the said tax to be levied and collected according to the assessments thereof required by existing laws

Sec 5. That upon the failure of any person, copartnership, joint stock company, corporation or any other association of persons, to pay the taxes levied by this Act at such times and places as the collector may prescribe by public notice, such persons, copartnerships, joint stock companies, corporations or associations of persons, shall be deemed and held as defaulters, and shall pay a penalty of 10 per cent. upon the amount of tax due and be subject to all the provisions of existing laws authorizing the seizure and sale of property for non-payment of taxes

Sec. 6 (Provides for the case of a State electing to pay the tax imposed upon its citizens)

A MINORITY REPORT.

A minority of the Committee of Ways and Means reported, through Mr. Anderson, of Georgia, a substitute for the bill of the majority, the main features of which are as follows:

1st. A tax of 3 per cent. on every species of property at its present value in Confederate Treasury notes, except coin, foreign exchange and bank notes.

2d. A tax of 10 per cent. on the amount of all coin, foreign exchange and bank notes, payable in kind or in the coupons of the 6 per cent non-taxable bonds hereafter to be issued.

3d. A tax of 10 per cent on all gross incomes over $3,000, including one-tenth of the gross income of farmers, which last is to be paid in kind.

4th. The tax in kind is to be deducted from the tax on property employed in agriculture, and the tax on incomes, arising from property taxed, is to be credited with the ad-valorem tax paid on such property.

The estimate is that this bill will raise $380,000,000 in money; the tax in kind is valued at $150,000,000, making an aggregate of $530,000,000. It is further estimated that the tax on coin, foreign exchange and bank bills will enable the Government to dispose of $100,000,000, or $150,000,000 of its bonds at a premium of 100 per cent—thus realizing from the sale of bonds from $200,000,000 to $300,000,000.

This plan has been advocated, thus far, by Messrs. Anderson of Georgia and Barksdale of Mississippi.

Two other propositions were submitted, by Mr Russell of Va., and Mr Boyce of S. C; but the above are the most prominent.

The Stuff that Soldiers are made of.—An eye witness narrates the following incident: In the fierce battle of Perryville, the regimental colors of the 23d Tennessee having been twice struck down and three of the standard bearers shot, Maj. W. seized the colors and called upon the men to follow. Soon the staff was struck from his hand by another shot, and was left too short to be held in the usual manner; but, nothing daunted, he snatched the honored symbol from the dust, wrapped it around his own body, and exclaimed "they must shoot down *this* flag staff before it falls again."—*Macon Confederate*.

A colored Lawyer admitted to practice in the Supreme Court.—A novel scene was witnessed in the Supreme Court room today, J. S Rock, a colored lawyer, of Massachusetts, being admitted, on the motion of Hon. Charles Sumner, as a practitioner before the Supreme Court of the United States.—*Yankee paper*.

The Virginia Salt Works are again in successful operation. Some of the croakers thought the people would be able to get no more salt because the Yankees had been there and broken a few of the kettles and burnt the sheds. The fact is, the raids of our enemies are only developing the energies of our people.

Garden Seeds.—The demand for Garden Seeds is urgent. Who can supply them, of guaranteed qualities and at reasonable prices?

Little Steps.—J. P. Halback, of Charlottesville, Va, makes slates and slate pencils, and is prepared to furnish them wholesale and retail.

WAR NEWS.

The War in South Carolina.—CHARLESTON, Feb. 9.—A dispatch to day says the enemy are in front of the Edisto river, near the new bridge. Their main force is said to be near the Rail Road. There was skirmishing to-day at Barnsker's bridge. Our troops are guarding the Rail Road bridge The enemy show no disposition to force a crossing A dispatch from Gen Wheeler, dated 3 p. m, 8th, says a large column of the enemy's infantry struck the Rail Road at Graham and Blacksville Kilpatrick is at Blacksville with three brigades

The Enemy Landing in Force at Newbern—Anticipated Advance.—KINSTON, Feb. 8.—Editor Confederate:—I am sorry to inform you that we have received news here, this morning, (which is regarded reliable) to the effect that the enemy are landing in force at Newbern and Morehead city From all accounts, 20,000 have already arrived, bringing with them five Locomotives, and Railroad iron sufficient to lay down from thirty to forty miles of track.

Ral. Confederate, 10th

From Below.—It is reported that the enemy have succeeded in getting two monitors inside the bar—one is believed to be the Montauk. They lay about three miles below, and out of range of Fort Anderson A number of wooden boats are also in the river above Fort Fisher. The enemy have a garrison at Smithville of about four hundred men.—*Wil Journal, 8th*

Another Meeting in Richmond.—RICHMOND, Feb'y 9.—A great war meeting was held at the African Church to day. The building was crowded, and thousands were unable to gain admittance. Stirring speeches were made by Senator Hunter, Sec'y Benjamin, Hon John A. Gilmer and Mr. Sheffey The meeting adjourned to the evening.

Another impromptu meeting was held in the Hall of the Virginia House of Delegates, which adopted patriotic resolutions and heard speeches from Congressmen Goode, Funsten and Baldwin of Va.

RICHMOND, Feb'y 10.—In his speech yesterday, in allusion to the Blair mission, Mr. Benjamin said that President Davis gave Blair the following letter:—

"Sir: I put down now in writing what I said to you in words I am ready to confer for peace. If I had assurance that any Commissioners would be sent to meet and treat with them I would send Commissioners for the purpose of devising peace for our two countries."

Lincoln's answer to this note was:—

"As you have shown me a note brought with you from Richmond, you may say to Davis that I will send an informal agent to secure peace for our one country."

Mr. Benjamin said that on Blair's first coming to Richmond he believed that he might hope it was an opening for some arrangement leading ultimately to peace. Had the enemy continued in the same mind he still believed that the question might have been settled.

Mr Benjamin advocated the immediate employment of negro troops and was loudly applauded.

Yankee News.—RICHMOND, Feb'y 10.—Yankee papers of the 8th do not developo the object of the late movement near Petersburg. They admit a considerable loss in the battle, but claim also that our loss was heavy.

Mr. Foote arrived in New York on the 7th, still in custody, and said to be destined for a military prison. He refuses to take the oath and wishes to go to Sonora.

Brazil has issued a decree excluding the C. S. ship Shenandoah from her ports.

The Canadian authorities have surrendered Bird, a Lake Erie raider, to the United States.

Maj Harry Gilmore, a noted Confederate partisan, was captured recently at Moorefields, Va.

The late Yankee movement near Petersburg.—Prisoners and deserters report this movement of the enemy to be, to gain possession of some inviting woodland down the Vaughan road, wood at present being very scarce within their lines, and growing thinner each day. For some time past, Grant has been cutting and hauling wood from points between the opposing lines in this direction, and we know from positive assurance, that the wood question is a very serious one in his lines. As matters now stand, the yankees have only extended their lines two or three miles, but not advanced them.—*Petersburg Express*.

From Alabama.—An officer from the front informs the Columbus (Miss.) Republic, that the Federals are concentrating large forces at Eastport and Decatur, for the purpose of moving on Selma and Montgomery, as soon as the roads are in suitable condition.

Gold.—There was a brisk demand for gold yesterday. The market opened at 45 and closed stiff at 46.—*Rich'd Sentinel, 9th*.

Rescued.—A few days since, about eight or nine miles from this place, a deserter and prisoner, en route for Greensboro', in the High Point stage, was released by a band of brother deserters, who emerged from the woods, and one of the number with cocked pistol in hand, stopping the coach, demanded the prisoner, who was permitted by the guard to make good his escape. Resistance, in that case, it is admitted, would have been in vain, as the passengers in the stage were outnumbered by the rescuers, two or three to one.

Salem Press.

Destructive Fire.—On Saturday morning last, about 9 o'clock, the Court House in this town was discovered to be on fire, near the top, and very soon the cupola and entire roof were enveloped in flames. The wind was blowing a perfect hurricane, and, to all human appearance, it was impossible to save the town from a general conflagration, coals being carried by the wind and kindled into a flame at a distance of five or six hundred yards. But desperate as was the case, citizens, soldiers and negroes nerved themselves for the conflict with the devouring element and by almost superhuman efforts, blessed by Providence, not a building was burnt except the Court House. Of the Court House itself not a vestige remains but the bare and gloomy looking walls. But by far the most severe loss to the county was the destruction of the Records and public papers of every description which have been accumulating since the formation of the county. One of the rooms was occupied as a Post Office, where all was destroyed, mail matter, mail bags, office furniture, &c.

Asheville News, 2d inst.

South Carolina Localities.—Rivers' Bridge is over the Big Salkehatchie in the Southeastern part of Barnwell District Broxton's Bridge is a few miles lower down on the same stream, near the boundary line of Barnwell and Beaufort Districts From Rivers' Bridge to Midway is about 21 miles, to Branchville about 30 miles. Midway is the first station next to and West of Branchville in the direction of Aiken.

Death of a Very Old Negro.—A very old negro woman, Charlotte, recently died in Davidson county, N. C. She had reached the venerable age of 125 years, a longevity that very few attain in these degenerate times. She was the property of M. C. Pendleton, and was long a faithful servant in that family.—*Salisbury Watchman*.

OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1865.

A PUBLIC MEETING ON THURSDAY NEXT.—On Saturday last the following invitation, numerously signed, was addressed to the Members of the Legislature from this county and Harnett—William B. Wright, Esq, Hon. J. G. Shepherd, Gen. A. D. McLean, and Dr. John McCormick—and to B. Fuller, Esq., Col. Wm. McL. McKay, and R. P. Buxton, Esq., viz:—

"FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Feb'y 11, 1865.

Deeming it important, in the present state of the Confederacy, that the people should be advised, enlightened and encouraged, in the prosecution of our cause, the undersigned respectfully solicit you to attend and address a meeting of the people proposed to be held at the Town Hall in the town of Fayetteville on Thursday next, at 11 o'clock A. M. Your compliance with this request will oblige, very respectfully, your ob't servts.

ARCH'D McLEAN.
C. B. MALLETT,
(and many others)

To Wm. B. Wright, Esq., Hon. J. G. Shepherd, B. Fuller, Esq., Col. W. McL. McKay, Gen. A. D. McLean, Dr. John McCormick, R. P. Buxton, Esq.

And the following response was received from those of the gentlemen who were at hand:—

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Feb'y 11th, 1865.

Gentlemen:—We are in the receipt of your note of this date, requesting us to attend, and address a meeting of the people, to be held at the Town Hall, in this place on Thursday next. We are profoundly sensible of the importance of such a meeting at a time like the present, when all should advise freely together upon these high public matters that touch us so nearly, in order that we may manifest our hearty support of the government of our choice and the institutions which we enjoy as a precious heritage of right and liberty.

Whatever of advice, enlightenment or encouragement, therefore we may be able to give for the prosecution of our cause, will be freely offered, and we trust that on this, as on every other occasion in the past, we shall prove that we are worthy of those inestimable rights of freemen for which we are struggling.

Let us "face together, and to the foe!"

With high respect, your ob't servants,

W. B. WRIGHT,
J. G. SHEPHERD,
B. FULLER,
W. McL. McKAY.

Messrs. Arch'd McLean, C. B. Mallett, D. A. Ray, H. McKethan, W. J. Anderson, E. J. Hale, and others.

We trust that the occasion, one of such deep interest to us all, will bring together a large audience from both town and country, that we may renew the pledges made four years ago, each to the other and all to their country, to strike for Independence and to resist to the last extremity the despotism then inaugurated at the Federal Capital. If we had reason then to resist; if forty years of open and insidious encroachments upon Southern rights, culminating in an insolent demand upon North Carolina to furnish troops utterly to crush out those rights, were enough then to unite us in defence; still more have the events of these four years of ruthless war written upon our hearts as with a pen of fire an inextinguishable determination to resist and to be free. The desolation of Southern homes; the wanton insults, outrages, and murders, of old men, women and children; the blood of noble men, our bravest and best, shed in battle in this righteous cause of Independence; all call upon us to persist in the struggle, to renew our vows and redouble our efforts, to reject with scorn the demand of "unconditional submission," and, resting our hopes of final success upon the justice and mercy of God, to strike again and again, whether in triumph or defeat, for our rights and liberty, our honor, our all.

Come to the meeting, therefore, and let us encourage each other and our soldiers in the field, by a renewed devotion to the cause, of "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

THE CRISIS.—We regret to say that the indications are not favorable to the realization of our confident hope that the preposterous demands of Lincoln would at once unite all Southern men, as they were united in 1861, to resist an enemy whose barbarities have made an impassable gulf between the North and the South. When we issued the last Observer we looked upon such a union as almost a certainty, for we did not see how any man worthy of the name of man, could entertain the idea of "unconditional submission" to Lincoln and abolitionism. But the closing discussion in the Legislature, which came to hand just as we were going to press, and other indications of the so called peace men and their organs, lead us to fear that some of them at least are ready to submit to anything. Legislators who refused to act hastily, or until they received the official statement of the Commissioners, and who put their refusal upon that ground and upon the farther ground that they had just sufficiently expressed their determination to relax no effort vigorously to prosecute the war to an honorable peace, may yet have an opportunity to show that they are not for submission. But we wish, for their own sakes, and for the sake of their country and the cause, that they had been willing to assure their constituents that they were for that country and that cause *under the new and changed condition of things*. Such an assurance would have gone far to encourage our own people and to discourage the enemy. It could have done no harm at home, and would have done good abroad. Their refusal will be imputed by the enemy to want of inclination, notwithstanding their so recent unanimous declaration to the contrary. The enemy will say, as uncharitable people at home have said, that it was only while there was a strong prospect of Peace that they unanimously resolved that "North Carolina will not abate one jot or tittle of her determination and zeal for a vigorous prosecution of the war to an honorable peace," and that as soon as the prospect of Peace vanished, the determination to prosecute the war vigorously vanished along with it. These members who thus objected to hasty legislation, and preferred to await the official report of the Commissioners, may help the cause and preserve their own characters for consistency and patriotism if they will await themselves of a very early opportunity to define their political status under the declarations of Lincoln. We hope they will, for in the reputation of some of them we feel a deep interest. Let them be assured that one very potent mode of prosecuting the war to an honorable peace," is to leave no room for doubt on the part of the enemy as to their own determination not to submit to Lincoln and abolitionism, unconditionally or otherwise.

As to the so called peace organs, the indications are that "Ephraim is joined to his idols." But among the people, it surely cannot be so. Reflecting men cannot fail to see that no alternative is left the Confederacy but War. The door is closed against all sorts of negotiations, Confederate or State or individual—closed by the enemy, and no possibility of its being opened except by the sword. With the blessing of God upon our arms, a victory or two by our noble soldiers will go far to change the Northern feeling, which may yet compel Lincoln and Seward, in the language of Holy Writ, to "let the people go." Their "hearts have been hardened," as was Pharaoh's of old, and we hope with the same purpose of Infinite Wisdom, to make their overthrow and our deliverance the more signal, and to show more clearly that "it is the Lord's doing."

TO THE POINT.—The following admirable resolutions were unanimously adopted by the 31st Virginia Regiment at a meeting on the 1st inst:—

"Resolved, That we have entire confidence in the President, the members of his Cabinet, both houses of Congress and our commanding officers.

"Resolved, That we denounce all fault finding croakers as enemies of their country, detest their pretended sympathy and decline their friendship.

"Resolved, That we pity our weak-hearted, despondirg bre hren both citizens and soldiers, (if there are any such soldiers,) and say unto them: "Be of good cheer," do but half your duty to your God, your country and yourselves, and all will be well.

"Resolved, That we took up arms to achieve our independence and that four years of hardship and privations, as well as the blood of our slaughtered comrades, demand that we shall lay them down *only* when that purpose is accomplished."

ANOTHER.—A meeting was held on the 31st ult. by the officers and men of the 5th N. C. Cavalry, Capt. N. P. Rankin presiding and Sergeant Chas. Haigh Secretary, at which the following resolutions were read by Col. Jas. H. McNeill, accompanied by a few appropriate remarks from him, and from Captains Harris and Galloway, Sergeant Winslow and others, and adopted:—

Whereas, Contrary to the wishes and expectations of many in our beloved Confederacy, the year 1864 has closed without a termination of the war.

Resolved, unanimously, That we deem it proper to renew the pledges made by us one year ago, upon the occasion of re-enlistment to serve our country in weal or woe, as long as the footsteps of a foe pollutes our soil.

Resolved unanimously, That we deem ourselves as a people abundantly competent to maintain our *Independence*; and we deprecate even the agitation of the question of yielding one iota of our long cherished *rights or grant as respecting negro servitude* in order to propitiate the favor of foreign powers and thereby secure *recognition or assistance*.

Resolved, unanimously, That we send word of cheer to the loved ones at home and bid them be of good heart. By the blessings of God, under the leadership of our beloved Gen. R. E. Lee, the army will yet conquer an honorable peace. As a part of that army, we cheerfully propose for the coming campaign, determined to be behind none in devotion to the cause and strict adherence to duty. Who can be a laggard in a cause so holy and just as ours! Truly,

He who falters is a dastard,
He who doubts is damned."

FALSE REPORTS.—It has been pretty generally reported, here and elsewhere, that there were extensive desertions from Hoke's Division, now posted near Wilmington—fifty one night, a hundred another, and a hundred and fifty a third, being the burden of these stories. By an officer who left the Division a few days ago, (wounded and retired,) we learn that so far from these statements being true, the fact is that by returns from furlough, &c. the Division musters a hundred more men than it did when Fort Fisher fell. And we have other information that such is the statement of the Commanding General at Wilmington.

It may be that these reports of desertions are started by disloyal people, who wish to injure the cause; but it is quite likely that they merely result from the general propensity to exaggerate. The desertion of one man is first magnified into ten, and then it is easy to make a hundred out of him.

FROM WILMINGTON.—By mail we have nothing later than the Carolinian of Thursday afternoon—the Journal of the same date failed. But by telegraph we learn that on Saturday at 1 P. M. two yankee ships, one of them a monitor, were slowly shelling Fort Anderson, on this side of the river, whilst on the other side, below Wilmington, the yankees had engaged in a sharp skirmish with Hoke's troops, in which we subsequently learned the yankees were repulsed.

A letter written before these operations stated that there had been 8 killed and wounded in Fort Anderson, and 1 killed in Hoke's Division.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.—Col. Parker, Gen. Grant's military Secretary, writes on the 1st inst. that every exertion is being made for a speedy exchange, but that the bad condition of Southern railroads will require time for the delivery of the yankee prisoners at a point where the exchange can be made.

The Florida's crew, 30 in number, have been released from confinement in Fort Warren and shipped to Halifax.

BEAST BUTLER AND THE YANKEES.—Gen. Butler made a speech at Lowell a few days ago and "brought down the house" by a reiteration of the yankee determination to take all the property of the Confederates and divide it among the loyal yankee soldiers. Upon which, the Richmond Dispatch remarks that though Butler is not much of a soldier or an orator, his speech proves that he has reflected deeply upon the yankee character and holds "their hearts in the hollow of his hand. He made a ten-strike when he appealed to that patriotic love of property which glows in every New England bosom. With all its faults, Jonathan appreciates his country—especially its real estate—and if he cannot love his neighbor as himself, he comes as near it as possible by loving his neighbor's goods, and regarding them as his own. When Butler holds out to Massachusetts every foot of land in the Confederacy—the poor man's few acres and the rich man's plantation—every house, every chair and table, every article of property of every kind, he touches the inmost chords of every New England soul; its sense of right, of justice, of humanity, and, above all, of duty to itself and to posterity."

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS.—The yankees have prohibited the publication of "Personals" in the N. York News, which had made an arrangement with the Richmond Enquirer by which information as to prisoners, &c., was conveyed to friends in either country. The prohibition is on the ground that the "Personals" have afforded opportunity of political communication in cypher. The News corrects the notice and says that such communication would be made easier and safer through an advertisement for a servant, or a lost pocket-book or stray horse in the columns of the "Herald" or "Tribune"—a remark which the Richmond Enquirer sustains by the following statement of curious facts:—

"The expedition for the relief of the prisoners on Johnson's Island was planned, organized and arranged through the *Herald* column of the Herald; and that for the capture of the Chesapeake was also planned through the same medium of communication. The privilege of advertising in behalf of humanity which the enemy's government permitted through the columns of the "News" protected that paper from any advertisements which communicated information. This last and little act of despotism may inflict some pecuniary loss upon the "News" at the expense of unnecessary sorrow and affliction to innocent persons, but it will not close the great channel of communication offered by the Herald to all who choose to pay for them. The Herald has leaped more of the reward of treason, and given more 'aid and comfort' to the enemy of its country than any ten papers in the United States. We suggest to the Herald to employ Gen Scott to take and administer the oath to every person offering an advertisement, as the only way to choke off the Confederate allies in New York, Cincinnati, Chicago and other places in the United States."

Mr. Stephens.—Vice President Stephens left Richmond Wednesday evening for Georgia.
Richmond Sentinel, 10th.

Raleigh Conservative.—For about a week past we have not seen this exchange.—*State Journal.*

The same case here. The packet comes to the Post Office here, but no paper for the Observer.

SPEECHES AT RICHMOND.—In the preceding page we have copied the eloquent speech of President Davis; and we have this morning in the Dispatch the following report of Mr. Gilmer's speech at one of the several meetings which have been held in Richmond:

Mr. John A. Gilmer, of North Carolina, came forward, amid cheers and applause, and addressed the assemblage. He said:

All doubts and divisions have passed away from among us. There is now one universal concurrence of opinion that there is nothing left us but to prosecute the war. The consequences of failure you have already been told. It is useless to consume time by multiplying words. If we lose our independence, we lose all our property, of every kind, in the country—our debt, our slaves, and our lands. But we lose more. The people of the United States have a greater debt than we, and we shall not escape without being obliged to pay our proportion of their debt. In what a condition will that leave us, with our property, our lands, bonds, houses and slaves, all gone, and the mighty debt incurred by the enemy in his war for our subjugation still to be borne, in part, by us and our children? Then our subjugation, with all its personal evils, the utter degradation it involved, must be considered. Subjugation—submission—presents no hope; but in continuing the war it was otherwise. We can see clearly the end and the evils of submission. It involves our utter degradation, and the turning loose among us, on a footing of equality, to the destruction of our society and civilization, millions of negroes. The final result of prosecuting the war is not now discernible, but it certainly holds out to us hope. Our present condition is not, by far, so desperate as at one time was that of our forefathers in the Revolution, either in the matters of men, internal resources, or the financial condition of our country. Any one who will now read and ponder their history (the history of our first Revolution) will be convinced of this. But we must do as did our forefathers. They went to the front and faced the music. We must do the same. Could we consult their shades to-day they would bid us be of good cheer; to throw ourselves, heart and soul, into the contest, and, under the guidance of an All-wise Providence, victory would crown our efforts, and liberty and independence, with all their blessings, would soon be ours. [Long-continued applause.] If we imitate the example of our sires, our success will be as glorious and triumphant as theirs. So far, in this war, we have proved ourselves no degenerate sons of illustrious sires. [Cheers and applause.] Let us not only persevere as we have begun, but redouble our exertions. Many there are who are discouraged by the vastly superior numbers that the enemy can bring, and have brought, into the field against us, and say we shall never be able to succeed against such odds. Those who make these discouraging calculations ask the question, "Where are now all the millions the enemy have put into the field since the beginning of the war?" The answer is easy: They have met our arms, and their bones whiten our battle fields; they have encountered our sun and our climate, and myriads have died and disappeared from the earth. [Cries of "That's so;" "Served them right"]

In conclusion, Mr. Gilmer addressed himself to the ladies, and paid them a handsome eulogy upon the power of their charms and exhortations in nerving our soldiers to deeds of heroism, and hoped they would neglect no opportunity to exert their influence in exciting and maintaining amongst our men the determination to be free or to die in the struggle.

Sherman's Movements.—No official information was received Tuesday, but reports deemed reliable state that the enemy tapped the South Carolina Railroad yesterday morning in three places, viz: Midway, Blackville and Bamberg.

A passenger who left Augusta Monday afternoon on an ordnance train states that the whooping and shouting of the enemy could be distinctly heard in the distance, as the train passed Williston. It is supposed they reached the South Carolina Road early Tuesday morning. The train from Branchville came through all safe Tuesday evening. Passengers by this train report the road cut at Williston, and state that the enemy had turned off towards Augusta. A number of militia, principally boys, are reported captured by the enemy.—*Char. Courier, 9th.*

The enemy's movements so far seem to threaten both Augusta and Columbia. On Tuesday, as appears by official reports, they gained possession of the Augusta branch of the South Carolina railroad, occupying Blackville and other points. Foster's troops are still believed to be on the other side of the Salkenatchie.

A dispatch from Gen. Wheeler, dated Feb'y 7th, 8 20 P. M., says: "I had started my command for Blackville this morning, but before reaching that place, my pickets were charged by three brigades of cavalry, which drove them beyond the village. Dibbrell's Tennessee brigade being in the vicinity, met and charged the enemy, driving them back into the village. Having but two brigades which could be brought against the enemy, I determined not to attack so superior a force. After waiting until nearly dark, I withdrew across the Edisto."

A dispatch from Branchville, Feb'y 8th, says: "The enemy have made their appearance along the rail road beyond the Edisto. They burnt a house within a mile and a half of the rail road bridge. About 7 o'clock yesterday our troops were withdrawn to this side of the railroad and the bridge burned." *Ib., 9th.*

The Negro Soldier Scheme.—The Confederate Senate, in secret session on Tuesday, by an overwhelming majority, voted down Mr Brown's resolution instructing the Military Committee to report a bill putting two hundred thousand negro soldiers in the army. This puts this vexed question at rest, at least for a time.—*Rich'd Dispatch, 10th.*

The Sentinel says the vote was first taken on a proposition to so modify the resolution as to make it a resolution of inquiry, and not of positive instruction. The amendment was rejected. A vote was then, after debate, taken on the resolution, and it was rejected—yeas 3, nay 13. Those who voted in the affirmative were Messrs. Brown, Henry and Vest. Those who voted in the negative were Messrs. Baker, Caperton, Graham, Haynes, Hunter, Johnston of Mo., Maxwell, Oldham, Orr, Semmes of La., Walker, Watson and Wigfall.

The North Carolina Delegation.—We violate no confidence in saying that at a consultation between the members of Congress from North Carolina, and the commissioners recently sent by the Legislature of that State to confer with the Confederate authorities, it was the *unanim us* recommendation of the Congressmen, and the united opinion of all, that no movement for a State Convention be instituted or encouraged.

The commissioners, we are further informed, expressed themselves much gratified by their interview with the President.

It is delightful to record these evidences of harmony among ourselves, and if such was the spirit before Lincoln put his late affront upon us, and made a fresh declaration of his intolerable designs, we may confidently anticipate the most perfect and enthusiastic unanimity on the farther prosecution of our great struggle.—*Rich. Sentinel.*

The Gold Market.—There is every reason to believe that gold must soon take a rapid decline. It is understood that a bill is being prepared in Congress to pay the soldiers limited amounts in gold, and that the Legislature of Virginia is also considering a penal measure to prohibit traffic in coin. Apart from these measures, the scarcity of money is becoming extreme, and it will be utterly impossible for the brokers to carry up gold against the contraction going on in the currency. A small sterling bill was sold yesterday at auction for fifty-one. The country has great confidence in Mr. Trenholm's financial judgment; and it is to be hoped that Congress will in no way interfere with his present firm and judicious policy to appreciate the currency, and to bring order out of the chaos in which his predecessor left the financial affairs of the Gov't.—*Rich'd Ex'r, 10th.*

Appointments.—Maj H. R. Hooper, formerly of the 1st Missouri Regiment of Confederate cavalry—retired on account of wounds—has been assigned to duty, with office in this city, as Chief Quartermaster of the District of North Carolina, *vice* Maj. W. W. Pierce, removed.—*Ral. Confederate, 11th.*

We learn that Major Stringfellow of Virginia, formerly on the Staff of Gen. Sam. Jones, has been assigned to duty as Assistant Adjutant General on the Staff of Lieutenant General Holmes; vice John W. Hinsdale, promoted to the Colonelcy of the 3d Regiment Reserves.—*Conservative.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

From South Carolina—Another Demonstration against Charleston.—CHARLESTON, Feb'y 10.—A yankee force, thought to be 2000 to 4000 strong, at Grimball's, James's Island, drove in our pickets at 8 o'clock this morning. There was some skirmishing, but no general engagement. The enemy is making active demonstrations at various points—thought to be feints.

A force of the enemy attacked our troops on the Saltkehatchie this morning, but were easily repulsed. They also advanced on the Charleston road, near the Blue House, and opened with artillery, but made no impression on our lines.

The intelligence from the Road to-day is that the enemy have crossed the Edisto River at Bennaker's bridge. They are moving on Augusta.

From the United States.—RICHMOND, Feb. 11.—United States papers of the 9th say that in the late fighting near Petersburg the casualities are estimated at 500 in the 5th and 200 in the 2d corps.

The arrangements for a general exchange of prisoners have been completed.

A terrible conflagration occurred in Philadelphia on Wednesday last. 2000 barrels of coal oil and 50 dwellings were burned. The burning oil poured through the streets, spreading destruction on all sides. A number of persons were roasted alive [boiled to death?] in the streets.

The draft in New York [which was to take place on the 15th] will probably be postponed.

Congress.—RICHMOND, Feb'y 9.—The Senate adjourned to day immediately after the journal was read. The House passed the Senate bill authorizing the appointment of a Commissary General with the rank of Brigadier. The tax bill was further discussed.

RICHMOND, Feb. 10.—To-day the House adopted a joint resolution to adjourn *sine die* on the 28th inst. Mr. Barksdale introduced a bill for the employment of negro troops, which was referred to a select committee, after a motion to reject it had been voted down, 53 to 21. The Tax bill discussion was continued. The Senate, by a tie vote, rejected the House adjournment resolution. In the course of debate Messrs. Maxwell (Florida) and Wigfall (Texas) expressed their unqualified opposition to use of negroes as soldiers. A bill to raise 200,000 was introduced by Mr. Oldham of Texas, and referred.

RICHMOND, Feb. 11.—The Senate to-day passed a bill changing the time for holding the Missouri Congressional election to 1st Monday of November. Mr Burnett of Ky. introduced a bill to abolish the office of Provost Marshal except within army lines. The Senate then went into secret session. In the House a communication was received from the President stating the number of Q. M's and A. Q. M's in Confederate service as 1316—on Post and tax in-kind duty 318. The tax bill was discussed until adjournment.

What Gen. Lee says.—A Richmond correspondent of a Southern paper says: "General Lee told Mr. W. C. Rives, the other day, that there was but a single thing to fear, and that was the spreading of a causeless despondency among the people. Prevent that and all would be well. We had strength enough left to win our independence, and we were certain to win it if the people will only not give way to a foolish despair."

"To another distinguished gentleman, General Lee said that the attack of the press on the President pained him (Lee) very much. He had confidence in the President, and did not think we could find a better man for that place."

We have also heard, from another source, which we consider entitled to credit, that Gen. Lee said he was "surprised at the despondency of the citizens." When Gen. Lee speaks thus; when Gen. Lee says, "we have strength enough left to win our independence, and we are certain to win it if the people will only not give way to a foolish despair," the people ought to believe him. This is not the irresponsible utterance of an excited politician, and still less of a street corner oracle; it is the voice of the highest military authority in the Confederacy, of a man better informed than any other of the resources of the enemy and of our own; it is spoken in the freedom of social intercourse, and not for public effect; and it comes from a man who never exaggerates, and who would not stain his honor by deception for all the renown the world could give. Do the people believe Robert E. Lee? And if they do will they not dismiss at once that 'foolish despair' which, he assures them, is the only obstacle to their independence?

The people of the Confederacy know at last what the loss of their independence means. They have that knowledge from the Federal Congress, and from the lips of Lincoln and Seward. There is no earthly hope for them but in stern and unanimous resistance; and in that there is everything to hope. So General Lee declares, and that trumpet gives no uncertain sound.—*Rich. Dispatch.*

Mosby's Men.—It was stated yesterday morning, in an extract from a United States paper, that 110 men of Col. Mosby's command had been recently captured by the enemy. Col. Mosby, who is in this city, received on yesterday a telegram, conveying the gratifying information that the report was wholly without foundation.—*Rich. Sentinel, 10th.*

The Bureau of Conscription.—We learn that a movement is on foot in Congress to abolish the Bureau of Conscription, and to substitute a new plan for the execution of the conscription by men detailed from the different commands of the army. The plan is said to be approved by Gen. Lee.—*Rich. Ex., 10th.*

The Late Fight at Petersburg.—The Yankees lost between 1500 and 2000 men, killed and wounded, and about 100 in prisoners. Our loss will not reach 500.—*Petersburg Express, 10th.*

From Kinston.—We received no further news, on yesterday, concerning the contemplated advance on Kinston and Goldsboro'.—*Ral. Confederate, 11th.*

Off Again.—The City Battalion is again called to arms and ordered off.—*Rich Confederate, 11th.*

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—Feb'y 13.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Bacon 6 00. Pork 4 00. Lard 6 00.
Beef 1 50 to 2 00 per pound, retail.
Beeswax 6 00. Butter 10 00.
Cotton 2 00. Coffee 50 00.
Cotton Yarn—50 00 to 65 00 per bunch.
Corn-meal, retail $8 to $10. Dried Fruit $2.
Eggs 3 00 per dozen.
Flour $500.
Fodder $15 to $20. Hay $15. Shucks $15.
Flaxseed 15 00 per bu.
Fayetteville 4-4 Sheetings, 5 50 by bale.
Grain—Corn $30 to $35. Wheat $50. Rye $35 00.
Oats 15 00. Peas $30 00 to 35 00.
Green Apples 30 00 to 50 00 per bushel.
Hides—green 3 50, dry 6 00 to 7 00.
Iron—Swedes $7 50, country made 4 00 to 5 00.
Leather 30 00 to 40 00.
Liquors—Corn Whiskey $35 00. Apple and Peach Brandy $35 00. Grape Brandy $80 to $100.
Molasses, country made, 30 00 by bbl.
Nails 4 50 to 5 00 per lb.
Onions $35 per bushel. Powder $50 per lb.
Potatoes—Irish $25 bush; sweet $15.
Rice 2 00.
Brown Sugar 15 00 to 18 00.
Soda retail 12 50 per lb. Shot $10 to $12.
Soap—Family Bar 5 00 per lb., Toilet 8 00 to 10 00.
Salt 75 00 per bushel.
Spirits Turpentine 5 00 per gallon.
Tallow 6 00. Wool $10.

Corrected by E. L. PEMBERTON.

Fayetteville Arsenal and Armory,
Office Post Q. M.,
Feb'y 10, 1865.

To Farmers on the Western Railroad.

I WISH to purchase for bedding ten or fifteen thousand pounds of WHEAT STRAW either baled or in position near the Railroad so as I can get it baled. $5 per hundred for unbaled or $6 for baled. Persons wishing to supply the article will address

Capt. J. M. McGOWAN, A. Q. M.,
A. & A., Fayetteville.

9 9t*1t
Telegraph 1t

WANTED,

HIDES to Tan on shares. Terms ½ leather or its equivalent in cash. I can tan it in a very short time. Persons having hides to tan, can send them to my address at Jonesboro', or deliver them at my Tan Yard.

JOHN M. SLOAN.
Jonesboro', Feb'y 9. 9-10pd

DIED,

At Rockfish village, in this county, yesterday morning, after a brief illness of pneumonia, Mr. J. E. VANAMBERG, a native of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., but for several years past Superintendent of the Rockfish Factory.

His funeral will take place, from his late residence, at 1 P. M. to-morrow. His friends and acquaintances are invited to attend.

In Raleigh yesterday, Mr. EVANDER MONROE Co. A, 5th N. C. Cavalry. His remains will be brought home and buried at Sandy Grove church, on Thursday next at 12 o'clock.

On the morning of Sunday, Jan'y 15th, at the Gulf, Chatham county, Mrs. MARY R. HAUGHTON, relict of the late John Haughton, fell asleep in Jesus, aged 73 years, 6 months and 4 days.

It is seldom we are called upon to mourn the loss of so exemplary a character. As a wife, a mother, a mistress and a friend, she attracted the admiration of all. As a wife, she was indeed a help-meet, diligent, careful, obedient and loving. As a mother, she carefully trained her own children; and then in the overflowing goodness of her heart, taught six motherless children to know the care and love of a mother. As a mistress, she was attentive to the comforts of her servants; and their tears, as they surrounded her lifeless remains attested the depth of their attachment. As a friend, she gained the esteem and love of all around her by her kindness and affability. Early in life, in the arduous duties of her station, she felt the need of a stronger arm than her own; and dedicated herself to the service of her Maker. As in the other relations of life, so as a member of the Church, she was hearty and zealous. Removing from the low-country to the Gulf she felt the need of her Church; and never rested until St. Mark's church was built. The diligence with which she performed her religious duties, brought its reward. The last year and a half of her life being paralyzed, she underwent great suffering, which, by the grace of God, she endured with patience and christian resignation. Then she experienced the blessing of the promises of her Saviour, and waited, through many trials and great pains, for her deliverance. When Death came he had no terrors for her. She was waiting for him, and hailed his coming with joy. Sunday morning, as a babe sinking to rest on its mother's breast, she quietly, without a struggle, fell asleep, and was carried by angels into "Abrah m's bosom." S

At the Pettigrew Hospital, in Raleigh, on Friday the 3d inst., HENRY ARNETT, aged 60 years, a soldier in Co. B, 18th N. C. Artillery, Starr's Battery. He entered the service as a volunteer in 861, and went off with the company raised by Col then Capt Peter Mallett, was discharged from the company, being over age; afterwards joined Starr's Company of Artillery, where he remained till sent to the Hospital at Raleigh. He leaves a widow and six children—three sons in the army. His ward master writes: *"He was a good man* and there is every reason to hope that his spirit is at rest."

Died in the service of his country, in Hospital at Fort Fisher, Dec'r 5, 1864, Mr. NEILL McEACHERN, of Robeson county. He was 43 years old the 28th of August last. He was a worthy and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church at St. Paul's. May the God of providence and grace comfort the heart of the bereaved widow and nourish and bless the four fatherless children. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." N. M. D.

MARTIN LEACH died January 2d, 1865, in General Hospital at Goldsboro', N. C.

The deceased was a member of a Howe Guard company from Moore county, which was on duty at Kinston. He remained in the trenches near Kinston during the cold night of Dec. 11th, while the enemy were threatening the place. He there contracted the disease which terminated in his death. Thus is added another name to the many thousands whose lives have been sacrificed in our country's cause.

He was in the 35th year of his age. He left a wife and one child, a large circle of relations and many friends to mourn his loss. As a husband and parent he was kind and affectionate; all his relations were devoted to him. As a neighbor he was accommodating and generous. The needy never appealed to him in vain. The poor never turned empty away from his door. As an officer he discharged his duty with conscientious scruples.

The death of such a man would at any time be a severe calamity, but especially is it now most sorely felt in this community, where so many families are left without any male member, to whom none was more ready to render assistance and advice than he whom God in his mysterious Providence has taken away from us. Yet, while we mourn the death of one so amiable and worthy, we sorrow not even as others which have no hope. For ours is a glorious hope, that our departed friend has been transfered from the troubled scenes of earth to a blessed immortality beyond the grave. He indulged a hope in the Lord Jesus Christ more than 7 years ago, under the ministry of Rev. D. McGilvary. He connected himself with the Presbyterian Church, and ever adorned the profession which he made by a godly walk and conversation. And we fondly hope that while his body quietly sleeps in the tomb near Union church, where he loved to worship God, that his emancipated spirit is among the saved on High, engaged in the songs of redeeming love. J. K.

Stationery at Auction.

TUESDAY the 28th inst. will be sold at Auction,
10 Reams Large White Letter Paper;
7 Do. Commercial Note do;
4 Gross Faber's Lead Pencils;
5 Dos Imported Pass Books, leather covers and lined;
10 Gross Pen Holders; 25 do Steel Pens;
1000 Large Blue Official Envelopes;
25,000 Buff and Dark letter size do.

JOHN H COOK, Auct'r
Feb'y 13. 9 2t

HARDWARE AT AUCTION.

By H. McMILLAN, Auctioneer.

ON Tuesday next, 14th inst., at my store will be sold, 1 cask of assorted Hardware, slightly damaged, consisting of Locks, Augurs, Castors, Pulleys, and a variety of other articles, the whole embracing a full and choice assortment. It will be sold in one entire lot.

Feb'y 13 9 3t

VALUABLE LAND for Sale.

THE greater portion of the well known LANDS and FARM of the late Capt James Robeson, situated on the east side of the Cape Fear River, 17 miles below Fayetteville, in Bladen county, are offered for sale. There are about 900 acres in the tracts. All the cleared and portions of excellent river "low lands" and swamp; some 75 to 80 acres open and swamp, uncleared. Large quantity of Cypress and Juniper timber growing. Further particulars can apply to the subscriber. A rare bargain will be offered. O. H. BROOKES.

Fayetteville, Feb'y 10 9 12w*1w

Wilmington Journal daily 1 week and weekly 1 time, and forward bill to this office

Garden Seed.

A SUPPLY of FRESH GARDEN SEED, for sale at the Drug Store of

S. J. HINSDALE.

Fayetteville, Feb'y 13. 9 2 pd

Wagons and Teams Wanted.

WE will give steady hauling and good wages for three or four wagons and teams.

MOORE & CASHWELL.

Feb'y 11 1m

Notice Tithe Payers of Robeson County.

YOU are respectfully requested to bring in your tax in without delay. You are also requested to deliver at Tithe Depots on Railroad and receive the usual pay for hauling over 8 miles, which is five cents per hundred for each mile.

B. STANSEL, Q M Agt.

Lumberton Feb'y 11. 1t

NOTICE.

WILL be sold on Thursday the 23d day of March, at the residence of the late Colin Monroe, Esq., deceased, on the Wilmington and Charlotte railroad, 26 NEGROES. Terms 6 months credit, purchaser giving note with approved security.

THO. D. McCOWELL,
H. H. ROBINSON, } Ex'rs

Feb'y 8. 9 3pd

Executor's Notice.

THE subscriber as Executor of Col. Neill Kelly, dec'd, hereby gives general notice to all the record and specialty creditors of the said Kelly, those that have priority in the payment of debts, that he has Confederate money to pay their claims, and asks them to come forward and receive it, and if they will not receive it exonerate him in paying it to those persons, whose claims are of an inferior dignity, from or for whom the said Kelly received Confederate money, &c., &c.

Come forward and receive the money, or exonerate the executor in paying those that will receive it. *Do not act like the animal that had the provender in the manger &c &c.*

A. S. KEMP, Ex'r.

Eastaboga, N. C., Feb'y 6 9-3pd

CARD NOTICE.

ON Tuesday the 21st day of this month, the subscriber as agent for Moore county, will sell at the Counties in Carthage, a lot of COTTON and WOOL CARDS. They are for soldiers' families.

S. R. JOHNSON, Ag't.

Feb'y 6. 9*1t

SCHEDULE OF PRICES
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

THE Commissioners of Appraisement for the State of North Carolina present their Schedule of Prices to govern Purchasing Agents for the next sixty days, with rates considerably advanced in consequence of the advance by order of Government in the prices paid above those of the late schedule. They earnestly hope that there now being no excuse for holding back the products so necessary to the supply of the army that farmers and others will come forward with alacrity and offer all that they can possibly spare from their own consumption to the aid of that army, which now at last is to be recognized as our only saviour from the unrestrained and grasping despotism of our barbarous enemy:

Apples, dried, good, peeled, per bus, 28 lbs		$10 00
" " unpeeled, " "		7 50
Axes, with handles, each		18 00
" without " "		13 00
Bacon, per pound, hog round,		4 00
Beans, white or cornfield, per bus 66 lbs		10 00
Brandy, apple, per gallon,		10 00
" peach, "		10 00
Beef, fresh, net, per lb		2 00
" fresh, gross, per lb,		1 00
" salted, "		2 50
Candles, tallow, per lb		5 00
" adamantine, per lb		10 00
Chains, trace, per pair		15 00
Cloth, woolen, for soldiers' clothes, ¾ yard wide, 10 oz to y'd, and *pro rata* as to greater or less weight or width, per yard		15 00
Cotton, raw, per lb		2 50
Coffee, Rio, per lb		12 50
Corn, unshelled, per bus of 70 lbs		12 00
Corn meal, sacks not included, per bus of 50 lbs		12 20
Drills, cotton, ¾ yd wide, 3 yds to lb, per yard		2 80
Flour, extra family, per b'l, 196 lbs		3 00
" extra superfine, per bbl 196 pounds		90 00
" superfine, per bbl, 196 lbs		80 00
" fine, per bbl of 196 lbs		70 00
Fodder, baled, per 100 lbs		8 00
" unbaled, " "		7 50
Hats, wool, each		8 00
Hay, baled, per 100 lbs		8 00
" unbaled, " "		7 50
Hides, dry, extra, per lb		5 00
" dry		0 00
" green, "		2 50
Horses, artillery, 1st class, pr head		1500 00
" " 2d " "		1200 00
House rent, per room per month		40 0
Iron, Pig, No 1, per ton 2000 lbs		360 00
" " 2, " " 2000 lb		314 00
" " 3, " " 2000 lb		275 00
" Bloom, " " 2000 lbs		710 00
" Smith's square or round per ton of 2000 lbs		1080 00
" serviceable railroad, per ton 2240 lbs		400 00
Jeans, wool domestic, per yard		15 00
Kettles, camp. iron, per lb		60
Lumber, good, per 1000 feet		60 00
Lard, per lb		4 50
Leather, sole, per lb		10 00
" upper, "		12 00
" harness, "		12 00
Molasses, sorghum, per gallon,		15 00
Mules, 1st class per head,		1500 00
" 2d " "		1200 00
" 3d " "		800 00
Mechanics, 1st class, per day, rations by gov't,		10 00
" 2d class, per day, rations by gov't,		8 00
Nails, per keg		200 00
Oats, sheaf, baled, per 100 lbs		10 00
" " unbaled, " "		9 25
" shelled, per bus		8 00
Osnaburgs, cotton, ¾ yd wide, 7 oz to yard, per yard		2 50
" cotton, ¾ yd wide, 8 oz to y

THE WOMEN OF THE SOUTH.

From the Richmond Sentinel.

We yield the ladies the floor to-day. It is proper that they be heard on the great issue now pending, to which our country is a party. It is no scramble for fortune, it is no contest for party ascendancy or political fame, that occupies our thoughts, and from which woman does well to shrink. The question at stake involves *liberty* and *home*. The graves of our fathers, the homes of our childhood, the felicities of the family circle, the joys of friendship, the happiness of the present, the hopes of the future, are all suspended on the hazards of the present conflict. The babe in the cradle, the sweet prattler whose sports are too often hushed by the recurring sorrows of the strife, the little children whose first years of consciousness are amid scenes dreadful even to the stoutest hearts and firmest nerves, the aged grandmother who meditates in her arm-chair,—all these are parties to the great issue; in case of failure far happiest they whose sands are nearly run! And need we add that to mother, wife, maiden, this great war is full of vast import? None can better realize than they the magnitude of the interests involved, and none can feel so keenly the painful commotion of personal anxieties, as those who number husband, son, or lover, among the country's combatants!

Nor have the women of our Confederacy been insensible to the various considerations which thus address their judgments and their solicitudes. On the contrary, they have from the very first, displayed the most ardent patriotism, the most devoted self-sacrifice, and the most unflagging fortitude. They have stripped their beds, and cut up their carpets, and divided out their stores, for the comfort of the soldiers. They have watched by the couch of the sick, and shown to the suffering stranger the gentle attentions of a mother. They have braded the knapsack and buckled the sword upon those whom they loved more than life, and as they sent them to the perilous fight, have charged them by that love which they rendered in return, to play the hero for their country! In short they have been both inspiration and support to our cause; animating the courage, relieving the wants, and soothing the sufferings of those on whom nature has imposed the manly duties, and enduring their own share of the trials of the war with a spirit that has never wavered or repined.

We have but recorded in the above the verdict of our sex, and the testimony which history will pay to the transcendent merits of the Confederate ladies. Their fame is one of the brightest glories which have adorned our heroic struggle. The brave men who conquered at Manassas and Chancellorsville, and in a hundred other fights, are prouder of our women, than of their own immortal achievements.

We can never be overcome by our enemies so long as the ladies shall manifest the spirit which has distinguished them in the past. It is they who determine the standard and fix the tone of the public virtue. Thank Heaven, we have every evidence that they are as patriotic as ever; that they are as unwilling now as they were at the beginning of the war to see our fair land become the spoil of the invader; to see our dwellings seized as "hums" for yankees, our farms parcelled out for onion patches, and ourselves, the lawful owners, become miserable paupers and scullions, or forced into exile.

We publish in another column, two letters which will serve to illustrate the present spirit and devotion of our ladies, and to show the truth of what we have stated, that these have suffered no diminution. Both letters are from Virginia matrons. One of them encloses to us an offering to the public which under all the circumstances—and she does not tell all—is truly noble. The other is from the mother of one of our most popular and dashing chieftains, who has done admirable service for his country, and won six honorable scars in its defence. We take great pleasure in publishing these letters, because no one can read them without experiencing the inspiration of their patriotic sentiments and the stimulus of a noble example. The soldier in the field will remember that it is for such as these he fights, and that it is such as these who besiege Heaven in their behalf with unceasing prayers. The laggard at home will feel that it is such as these, and the helpless ones they represent, who urge him to his duty and reproach his delay. And all, in whatever sphere, should catch new spirit and new zeal from such virtuous examples.

The following is one of the letters above mentioned:—

CULPEPER CO., VA., Jan. 27th, 1865.

Editor of the Sentinel:

Dear Sir:—I have just read, with intense interest, your spirited appeal to the Confederate people to render free offerings of supplies, money, &c., for the relief of our noble, brave and self-sacrificing soldiery. It gives me infinite pleasure, as an imperative, christian, and patriotic duty, to send you $1,000—the fruit of my own industry—and to say that my husband will shortly send, for the same purpose, $1,000 more and 500 lbs. of bacon—the better portion of our year's provisions.

We have, in common with our neighbors, suffered much and sustained heavy losses by the several invasions of the plundering yankees. Our land, thank heaven, they can neither carry off nor wholly destroy; that is about all we have left, and it, too, will be cheerfully given, if needed in the achievement of our separation from our despised infidel and atrocious foe. If we are but true to ourselves, true to our holy religion, true to our heroic army and the proud reputation they have won for us, we shall certainly not fail of our independence. God is just, and the vengeance that of yore slew the priests of Baal will not sleep forever.

Very truly yours, A SOUTHERN MATRON.

The following is an extract from the other:—

"If good men will do their duty, and coerce those to do theirs who have not strength of character to act without compulsion, we would soon see our people hopeful and our cause prosperous. If the men will not do better, rather than our cause shall be lost by their cowardice, I believe the women will take the field. The bare thought of giving up now, after our land has been baptized with the blood of our fathers, brothers and sons, is enough to curdle the blood of any Southern woman. I say to the men who croak in my presence, stop your miserable repinings, and go fight for your country! If our cause is so gloomy as you say, you are needed, and ought to go to the front! If you will not go, for shame's sake keep your coward fears to yourselves! Governor, if you and all who have authority, will see to it that all the men are put into the field who ought to be there, I have no doubt the coming spring will see us a victorious people, the admiration of the world. I do not write this because I have no friends to fall in battle. I can *proudly* say that *all* my near relations are in the field—*none* have contracts or hiding places. My *sons* are there, and I would sooner go myself than see my country under Yankee rule. I prefer death for me and mine, to even the holding of intercourse with the Yankees again. Now is our time to act. The winter is passing swiftly away, and our armies must be recruited for the spring."

A woman in Canada has had and used for thirty years one paper of pins, and has lost but one or two during the whole time.

THE SPIRIT OF THE ARMY.

From the Raleigh Confederate.

It does seem to us that the main purpose of one or two papers in this State is to make craven hearts of all the people at home and to weaken the hopes and quench the patriotic fires, which have so long animated and buoyed up the soldier, in his noble struggle for independence.

Whenever the soldier meets with a reverse, these milk and cider patriots, at home, at once conclude, that the "jig's up;" the cause "has played out," and very complacently announce that the Confederacy has gone, or soon will go, "up the spout;" and forth with a great hue and cry is made for *peace*, by these same "fishy and doubtful" patriots.

The soldier who has suffered a reverse, is preparing, in the mean time, for another and more successful blow upon the enemy, the idea of giving up and suing for peace never having entered his head. But just as he has perfected his plans, massed his forces and issued his orders for the onset, messages from home arrive, and what do they bring? Words of encouragement and confidence? The prayers of the loved ones at home for better success in the next clash of arms? Nay! Nay! But, they are messages of complaint against the authorities, and propositions for virtually laying down those arms which have so long defended the homes and altars of the country, and tamely submitting to a peace upon terms which would forever disgrace the soldier and ruin his beloved country.

But all this does not make cowards and craven hearts of those gallant sons of the South, whose blood has been shed as water, to purchase our independence. The true soldier sighs as he remembers the craven-hearted, fault finding, and almost conquered relatives who are at home in the enjoyment of ease and plenty; who are almost ready to bow the knee to Lincoln and receive his galling yoke; but that sigh is soon chased away by the purer breath of patriotic resolve—the resolve to be free or die—and looking steadfastly forth to the mark for which he is striving, he recommits himself to his God and his country's cause, and, with a shout of defiance, rushes against the foe.

Think you, that the soldiers will ever give up this glorious strife? That you can make cravens and cowards of those men who have borne the flags of Lee and Jackson and Longstreet and Early, through all the bloody fields of Virginia to the heights of Gettysburg, and from thence to the seige of Richmond? That you can make traitors and subjunctionists of those gallant veterans, who have spent four long years of sufferings and privations, in defence of a flag that has been bathed in the life blood of thousands of their brothers and kindred? Let the patriotic resolutions which we publish to day, from the Army of Virginia, answer.

The people at home may kneel and crouch before the tyrant foe; but the army are too proud, too patriotic, too chivalrous, for any such debasement. The people at home may be conquered by their fears; but the army will never be conquered, not even by their Yankee foes; nor all the croakings and grumblings, and treasonable arguments which re-unionists can bring to bear, can ever convince them that the Yankees are to be their masters.

Some snarler, writing about woman, says "she is generally lost when she begins to reason." Another snarler observes: "He might have added that very few get lost that way."

State of North Carolina.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.—IN EQUITY.

Calvin J. Cochran and others, vs J. B. and G. W. Cochran and others.

Petition for the sale of Land.

It appearing to my satisfaction that J. B. Cochran, G. W. Cochran and the heirs of P. J. Cochran, dec'd, and the heirs of Terry Monroe, dec'd, wife of Archy Monroe, reside beyond the limits of this State. It is therefore ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Fayetteville Observer, notifying said defendants of the filing of this Petition, and that they be and appear at the next term of the Court of Equity to be held for the County of Montgomery, at the Court House in Troy, on the last Monday in February next, then and there to answer this Petition, otherwise the same will be taken pro confesso and heard ex parte as to them.

Witness, Edm'd J. Gaines, Clerk and Master in Equity for said county, at office in Troy.

2-6w E. J. GAINES, C. M. E.

NOTICE.

STRAYED from the subscriber, about the middle of December last, two OXEN, one black brindle, the other red neck and breast, the balance white. The said Steers I got from Jesse Bethea, in Marlboro' District, S. C. Any person who will take them up will be liberally rewarded, and any information of them will be thankfully received. The marks on them not recollected. My address is Gilopolis, Robeson county.

MARK LOCKLIER.

Jan'y 28 4-4wpd

10,000 Pieces New Music,

JUST received, which will be sent to any address on receipt of our Catalogue prices.

We have now become the SOLE AGENTS in North Carolina, for Geo. Dunn & Co. of Richmond, who are the *largest* and *finest* Music Publishers in the South.

All orders to them, from this State, will be filled at our Store.

☞ One half off to the Trade.

Apply for Catalogues of Books, Music, &c.

BRANSON & FARRAR,
Raleigh, N. C.

Sept. 5 6-6wpd

A few Important Facts

IN REGARD TO

THE "SOUTHERN HEPATIC PILLS."

1. THEY are prepared from the best quality of Medicine by the discoverer, now an aged Minister of the Gospel, and are safe.

2. They have been known for years and tested by thousands.

3. Five hundred persons are known to have been cured by them.

4. They are not recommended by the proprietor for everything, but only for diseases which arise from disordered livers.

5. Directions and certificates accompany each box and these certificates are from well known and most respectable individuals.

6. Correspondents recommend them as good for Liver Disease, Chills and Fevers, Pneumonia, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Bilious Fevers, Bilious Rheumatism, Worms, Pleurisy, Bronchitis, &c.

7. Several gentlemen state that the use of these Pills has been to them an annual saving of from $100 to $200; they are the best physician medicine ever offered to the public.

8. Some Physicians of the highest standing prescribe them to their patients, and hundreds of boxes have been sold to regular practitioners.

9. During the last quarter 2 880 boxes have been sold to Druggists, one in South Carolina, and one in North Carolina—and some time ago over 3,700 boxes were ordered by Druggists in one town in Virginia.

☞ Price, $460 per gross, $50 per dozen, $5 per box.

For Sale in North Carolina as Follows:

Asheville, E J Aston,
Abemarle, J M Bivins,
Chapel Hill, R B Saunders,
Charlotte, J Nye Hutchinson,
" P E Carr,
Clinton, Hubbard & Moseley,
Concord, J Reid,
Enfield, J Cohen,
Hillsboro', J Y Whitted & Co,
Fayetteville, N A Stedman & Co
Greensboro', Porter & Gorrell,
Goldsboro', Loman & Moore,
Halifax, J O'Brien,
Henderson, Wyche & Co,
Lexington, J P Stimson,
" Address,
Lincolnton, S P Sherrill,
Louisburg, J Clifton,
Marion, Wm Wakefield,
Pittsboro', I Long,
Raleigh, Williams & Haywood,
" P F Pescud,
Rockingham, J P Northam,
Salisbury, Henderson & Ennis,
" Burbank & Gallagher,
Shelby, E Ironberger,
Wadesboro', W O Bennett,
Whiteville, K Hayaes,
Wilmington, Walker Meares,
" H McKin,
" W H Lippitt,
Warrenton, Wm Eaton,
Williamston, Dr Hyman,
GEORGE W DEEMS,
Goldsboro', N C.

July 25th, 1864. 4-6m

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

From the Richmond Dispatch.

The appointment of General Lee to the Command in Chief of the Armies of the Confederacy will give universal satisfaction, and inspire fresh confidence in every bosom. The President has shown, in this important act, a just appreciation of the exigencies of the occasion, and a patriotic sympathy with the public sentiment, which pointed with entire unanimity to such a step.

We need say nothing of the great qualities which recommend General Lee to his present position. They have been tested in the fiery furnace, seven times heated, of a war which, in its ferocity, duration and magnitude, has few parallels in history. The seven years' contest of the American Revolution was child's play compared with this struggle. Its largest armies would have scarcely formed an advance guard of the giant hosts which have been marshalled in this contest. Its most formidable weapons were pop-guns to the huge missiles which have hurtled through the air in this Titanic struggle. We do no wrong to the memory of Washington, nor to the facts of history, when we say that he never gave such proof of military ability as General Lee—a soldier who, with limited means, has successfully resisted for four years the enormous power of the United States, and kept the Confederate flag flying defiant on the capitol.

We need say nothing to inspire confidence in such a leader. But perhaps we ought to say something to prevent that confidence from becoming idolatry; to invoke the people of the Confederacy not to put their trust in man, whose breath is in his nostrils, but to place their only reliance upon that Divine hand which controls the destinies of nations, and which has hitherto been interposed so wonderfully in our behalf; that God, who is a jealous God, and who will not permit his subjects to transfer with impunity the glory of the Creator to his creatures and his instruments. All that man can do is to adopt the best means for the accomplishment of a purpose, and then to look to Heaven for its blessing.

Moreover, we have seen so much of popular impatience and fickleness, we appreciate so strongly the difficulties of Gen. Lee's position, that we feel constrained to invoke the people to economize their enthusiasm, and invest their surplus of that article in forbearance and charity qualities which may be needed before this war is over. General Lee, great man that he is, is neither infallible, omniscient nor omnipotent. Gen. Washington often lost battles, and was often the victim of misconstruction and misrepresentation at the hands of his friends. Let us not waste all our breath at the beginning of Gen'l Lee's new career, but retain a portion of it to sustain him at the pinch of the hill. Let us show our admiration and confidence by holding up his hands, by strengthening his armies, by refraining from the croaking that would paralyze his soldiers, by putting down the spirit of extortion and greed, and pouring out cheerful contributions of material aid to the cause. The Government has given us General Lee as the Commander in Chief—now let the people do their part and give Gen. Lee the public spirit and unselfish patriotism of 1861. Then, with the blessing of Heaven, we may look forward as confidently to the achievement of Confederate Independence as the rising of to morrow's sun.

SOUTHERN PUBLICATIONS.

THE ELEMENTARY SPELLING BOOK, contains about the same as Webster's Spelling Book, with the additional advantage of having all the vowels and accent accurately marked. A supply always on hand. Price $3 00.

THE FIRST DIXIE READER is a new book, containing easy reading lessons on Southern subjects. Price 75 cts.

THE DIXIE PRIMER, Third Edition, Pictorial, still continues to be immensely popular. Price ($25 per hundred) 30 cts.

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FIRST BOOK IN COMPOSITION, by L. Branson, A. M., is now used extensively, and is the only book of the kind published in the Confederacy. Price 3 00.

YORK'S ENGLISH GRAMMAR, Third Edition, is finely adapted to common schools. Price 6 00.

JOHNSON'S COMMON SCHOOL ARITHMETIC, by Prof. L. Johnson of Trinity College, is a new and valuable book, and will be followed by a high school Arithmetic. Price 3 50.

MYRTLE LEAVES, by Rev. A. W. Mangum, second edition, is a delightful book, and contains a beautiful story of a "Soldier's Love." Price 2 00.

HISTORICAL SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS, is sold largely. It gives the student much valuable information of the Historical portions of the Bible. Price 75 cts.

SONGS OF LOVE and LIBERTY, compiled by a North Carolina Lady. Contains a popular collection of Songs and Ballads. Price (per hundred $40) 75 cts.

THE JACK MORGAN SONGSTER, compiled by Capt. T. A. Evanson, is one of the best collections of songs and sentimental ballads ever published. Price (per hundred $30) 1 00.

MORVEN AND LINDA, a tale of a soldier's love, is a rare and racy little book. Price ($12 per hundred) 25 cts.

CARTWELL'S LAW PRACTICE, Second Edition, contains all the business forms extensively used. Price 20 00.

SHEET MUSIC, a full assortment of the pieces published in the South. Price from 1 00 to 4 00.

STATIONERY of all kinds, at moderate prices.

FANCY ARTICLES generally.

☞ The usual deductions made to the Trade.

☞ Those ordering goods to be sent per mail, must remit 10 cents extra on the dollar to pay postage.

N. B. Our Publications are to be had at the principal Book Stores throughout the country.

BRANSON & FARRAR,
Raleigh, N. C.

Sept. 17 7-6wpd

Suppernong Plantings for sale.

THE subscriber has the Morgenton road seven miles from Fayetteville, would sell Suppernong Plantings at ten cents each in specie or two dollars each in Confederate Treasury notes. The time for planting will be out in three weeks.

DUNCAN McARTHUR.

Feb'y 6, 1865. 7 2pd

WANTED,

HIDES to tan on shares. Terms ½ Leather or its equivalent in cash. We can tan it in a very short time if desired by Hickie's patent. Persons wishing their Hides tanned can send them to our address to Egypt Depot, where they will be taken from and Leather delivered at our expense. Our address is Beaumont, Chatham County.

W. D. WATSON & CO.

Reference Messrs. G. W. Williams & Co., Fayetteville.

Jan'y 25 4-3mpd

Negroes to Hire—Horses and Mules for sale.

ON Wednesday 15th inst., I will hire for the balance of the year, a number of NEGROES, men, boys, women and girls.

I will offer for sale on the same day, HORSES and MULES. I would like to rent out at the same time, from 50 to 100 acres of good Farming LAND, on the west side of Cape Fear River.

JAS. McKETHAN.

Kyle's Landing, Feb'y 8. 7-3pd

State of North Carolina,

ROBESON COUNTY.—In Equity.

John McPhaul vs William McPhaul, Calvin McPhaul, Neill McPhaul, Milton McPhaul, James McPhaul, Catharine McPhaul and Mollie McPhaul.

Petition for Sale of Land for Partition.

IT appearing to my satisfaction that William McPhaul and Calvin McPhaul reside beyond the limits of the State of North Carolina; they are hereby notified to be and appear before the Judge of the Court of Equity for the County of Robeson, at the Court House in Lumberton, on the fourth Monday in March next, then and there to plead, answer or demur to the petition against them filed, or the same will be taken pro confesso, and a decree entered accordingly.

Witness, N. A. McLean, Clerk of our said Court of Equity for Robeson County, at office in Lumberton the 26th January 1865.

Pr'd fee $4 N. A. McLEAN, C. & M. E.

PENALTIES IN 1776.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Messrs. Editors: To show the temper and firmness of the patriots of 1776, and their zeal for independence at all hazards, it is only necessary to quote the legislation of that period. Had there been such croakers and fault-finders then as we have now, and such indiscreet *speakers* and *writers* "against our public defence," there would have been many *imprisonments* and *forfeitures*. At page 443 of the volume by Dr. Caruthers, entitled "The Old North State in 1776," may be seen an act of the General Assembly of North Carolina passed at Newbern, in April 1777, "For declaring what crimes and practices against the State shall be treason, and what shall be misprision of treason, and providing punishment adequate to crimes of both classes, and for preventing the dangers which may arise from persons disaffected to the State." The third section is in the following words:

"That if any person or persons within this State shall attempt to convey intelligence to the enemies of this State, or of the United States, *or shall publicly and deliberately speak or write against our public defence;* or shall maliciously and advisedly endeavor to excite the people to resist the government of this State, or persuade them to *return to a dependence* on the crown of Great Britain; or shall knowingly spread false and *dispiriting news* or maliciously and advisedly terrify and discourage the people from enlisting into the service of the State; or shall stir up or excite tumults, disorders or insurrections in the State, or disperse the people to favor the enemy, *or oppose and endeavor to prevent the measures carrying on in support of the freedom and independence* of the said United States; every such person or persons being thereof legally convicted by the evidence of two or more creditable witnesses, or other sufficient testimony, shall be adjudged *guilty of misprision of treason* and shall suffer imprisonment during the war, and forfeit to the State one half of his, her or their lands, tenements, goods and chattels."

The 4th section directs in what manner arrests shall be made, how bonds shall be taken for good behaviour. The 5th section prescribes the oath of allegiance to the State, which consists of twenty-eight lines or about one page of the book. The 6th section provides for the banishment to Europe or the West Indies of all disaffected persons in the State within sixty days, and allows them to sell their property. The 7th section declares that if the persons so banished shall return to the State, they shall be proceeded against as for treason.

The Act is a long one, occupying six pages of the volume, and is worthy of perusal for its curious details. I do not advise exactly such remedies in the present struggle, but I have referred to the act as a proof that our revolutionary fathers were in earnest. We have more at stake than they had, and surely we shall not be found wanting in our great duties.

Yours respectfully, M.

Commissioners to Richmond.—Messrs. Pool, Carter, Pearson and Hall appeared in Richmond while we were there, as Commissioners sent by the Legislature of this State for the purpose of conference, &c. It was very gratifying to us to mark the hospitable and distinguished consideration shown to the State, through her Legislative Representatives. The gentlemen were admitted to an immediate and protracted interview with President Davis, who, notwithstanding that he was suffering from a very severe attack of neuralgia, at once accorded a reception to our delegation. The matters of conference were, we presume, confidential, but we are enabled to say, that the President was frank, unreserved and confiding; that he presented to the Commissioners a full history of his policy as connected with peace negotiations, and that the interview resulted agreeably and usefully. After passing from the audience with President Davis, the delegation were presented to the ladies of the Mansion and were entertained with refreshing hospitalities. The Legislature of Virginia, in both Houses, extended to the Commissioners of North Carolina privileged seats upon the floor of their respective bodies, and the Governor of the Commonwealth entertained them at breakfast. Important conferences, we understand, took place between the delegation and our Congressional representation, all of which, we presume, will be before the public by the report of the gentlemen themselves.

One thing we are sure was prominent with all men: *that no State should desert her sisters*, or enter upon the mad project of *separate State action*. We await the report of our Commissioners with satisfaction, because from what we observed, we feel assured, that their visit to Richmond and their conferences there were gratifying to all engaged; and we have great confidence that good will result from this action of the Legislature.—*Ral. Confederate, 6th.*

Spring Circuit.—Arrangement of the Superior Courts by the Judges for the Spring Circuit:

1st Circuit, Judge Reade, Edenton.
2d " " Howard, Newbern.
3d " " Gilliam, Raleigh, (exch'd.)
4th " " Saunders, Hillsboro'.
5th " " French, Wilmington.
6th " " Shipp, Salisbury, (exch'd.)
7th " " Heath, Morganton.
8th " " Osborne, Buncombe.

Ral. Confederate.

Stolen Horses Recovered.—We mentioned last week that Major J. M. Potts of this county, had two horses stolen from him on Saturday night the 28th. Major Potts followed the thieves through Iredell, Davie and Yadkin, to Surry county, where he caught them on Wednesday night last, near the Virginia line, and recovered his horses. One of the thieves is a Marylander, the other a Mississippian—they had been in South Carolina in charge of broken down cavalry horses. Major Potts has shown great energy and perseverence in pursuing the rogues. He promises to publish a full account of the trip.—*Char. Democrat.*

Court House Burned.—The Court House in Asheville was consumed by fire on Saturday, the 28th ult. The fire is supposed to have been accidental. It originated in the cupola, where there was a town clock, on which repairs were being made that morning. Some other buildings, we learn, were also consumed. The Court House was probably the finest and largest one in the State.—*Ral. Progress, 6th.*

The Non-Taxable Bonds.—The Speaker laid before the House of Representatives, last week, a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, in response to a resolution, stating that he had disposed of $44,517,500 of the six per cent. non-taxable loan, and had realized $14,659,428 05 premium thereon.

A Table of Distances of interest just now.—From Branchville to Charleston, 62 miles; from Branchville to Kingsville, 45 miles; from Branchville to Florence, 108 miles; from Branchville to Columbia, 68 miles; from Branchville to Augusta, 75 miles; from Branchville to Wilmington, 216 miles; from Branchville to Charlotte, 174 miles; from Charleston to Florence, 102 miles; from Wilmington to Florence, 107 miles.

Declined.—We learn that the office of Commissary-General of the Confederate States was tendered to Col. Wm. Johnston of this place. Mr. Johnston declined the position.—*Char. Dem.*

Gold.—Gold yesterday, was quoted at 45, though some small sums were sold at 44½ and even 44.—*Rich. Dispatch, 4th.*

FROM NORTH ALABAMA.

A gentleman, just from Blount county, brings information that Gen. Lyon, with three or four hundred men, crossed the Tennessee river at Beard's Bluff, a few miles below Guntersville, last week. It occupied him four or five days, the enemy having destroyed the flat-boat, forcing him to resort to skiffs and dug-outs for the men, the horses swimming. The interference of the Yankee gunboats was prevented by a 12 pounder Parrott placed on the Bluff. Fifty of the force did not succeed in getting over at that point, and doubtless struck for some other crossing. On Saturday, the 14th instant, Gen. Lyon moved out to the vicinity of Red Hill, about 12 miles from the Bluff, and his men encamped in three detachments, throwing out their pickets towards the river, but none in their rear. Last Sunday morning, before day, the enemy, both infantry and cavalry, proceeding on the Huntsville road, circumvented the Confederates, attacked their rear and stampeded them, killing, wounding and capturing a few of them. The 12 pounder Parrott, and, it is supposed, a good many horses, fell into the enemy's hands. Gen. Lyon was sleeping in a house. The enemy surrounded it. A Lieutenant and another Yankee entered the house, waked up the General and told him he was their prisoner. He arose and asked permission to dress, which was accorded him. Drawing on his pants he stepped to the bed, seized his pistol lying on it, shot the Lieutenant, knocked down his companion, leaped out of the house and made his escape. The Yankee command returned to the North side of the River.

The gentleman who gives the foregoing account states, what we have received from another source, that there were 20,000 yankees in and near Huntsville, last week. The citizens had been treated with more rigor than formerly. The Rev. Dr. Ross, of the Presbyterian Church, had been banished from their lines and ordered South. It seems that during the yankee evacuation, the Doctor had, in a sermon, inveighed against the pusillanimous conduct of those persons who had compromised themselves and affiliated with the Yankees. Some one had taken down such expressions as were most offensive to the yankees and reported them to the commanding officers on their return. The Doctor was, therefore, arrested, confronted with his reported language and asked if he had used it. He, with accustomed courage and patriotism, acknowledged it and received sentence of banishment.

Benjamin Jolly, a citizen of Huntsville, who has had the reputation, ever since the war began, of being a Union man and affiliating with the yankees whenever they occupied the place, vied with the most patriotic citizens in extending hospitalities and invitations to liquor to the Confederate officers and soldiers, when they got possession of the city. It is reported that, when the Federals re occupied the city, they robbed Jolly of $11,000 in greenbacks, broke up his furniture, &c, threatened to hang him, and he barely escaped with his life through the interposition of some loyal (yankee) friend or friends. So much for trying to please both sides.

Montgomery, Alabama, Advertiser.

Provost Marshals and Conscript Officers.—A bill is to be introduced in the Confederate Senate this morning to abolish provost marshals, except within the lines of armies in the field, and to turn over to the reserve forces the duties now performed by the conscript officers, their guards, etc. It is believed by the friends of this measure that it will add a large number of able bodied men to the army, all of whose places can be filled, and duties efficiently performed, by the men under eighteen and over forty five years of age.

Richmond Dispatch, 4th.

General Beauregard.—We learn from undoubted authority that Gen. Beauregard has arrived in the city of Augusta, Ga., and taken charge of military operations in that department.

Rich'd Sentinel, 4th.

Maj. Jas. H. McNeill.—We are glad to learn that this gallant officer has received his commission as Colonel of the 5th N. C. Cavalry. His promotion has been well earned.

Fayetteville Telegraph.

Badly Posted.—Recently, while the people at Honolulu were anxiously looting out for news from the United States, a large clipper arrived from San Francisco, and on being boarded by the news boat, the only reply of the captain was, "There was a devil of a row in the United States, but he didn't learn the particulars."

At a regular meeting of Mingo Lodge, No 200, held in their Hall, September 3d, 1864, the following committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of this Lodge occasioned by the death of brother James K. Lassiter, who died in the Virginia Hospital on the 17 h day of August 1864, of diarrhœa. He was born in Sampson county on the 14th day of November 1835, his age is 24 years, 9 months and 3 days. Early in life he was sent to school to our common country schools until he was prepared for College; he entered at Wake Forest and graduated there in the Class of 1855. Subsequently he studied law, and obtained a license to practice in the County Court in the year 1859 and in the Superior Court in the year 1860.

On motion, Dr. H. A. Bizzell, A. A. McKoy, Rev. B. B. Holder, S. D. Jackson and Isaiah McPhail were appointed the committee to report resolutions expressive of our sorrow for the loss of our brother, James K. Lassiter, who reported the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, Almighty God, in the dispensation of his superintending providence, hath seen fit to remove from our midst our highly esteemed Brother, J. K. Lassiter, a member of Company A, 5th N. C. Cavalry. When he saw his country in a crisis and threatened with invasion from the States of the north, he nobly espoused the cause of his native States, and entered as a private, in which capacity he served until his death, always refusing promotion. He was a gentleman of the first water, highly educated, of the finest address in manners, of superb moral and religious qualities, quiet, sober and without fault. He belonged to the organization of Ancient York Masons, and when his friends and brethren read this notice they will feel no concern for his futurity, for they will know that ere this time he has joined that grand and Celestial Lodge where his many excellencies can only be properly appreciated.

As a soldier, he was ever true and faithful to his post; and a devoted christian of the Baptist Denomination at Wake Forest College. He leaves a father and mother, sister and brother-in-law, and two little nephews and many relatives and friends to mourn his loss. Therefore,

Resolved, That though we deeply lament and much deplore our loss in the death of brother Lassiter, yet we humbly bow to the will of God and meekly bear the burden which he hath placed upon us.

Resolved, That the cutting down of brother Lassiter, while in active life, strikingly admonishes us of our own mortality, and it would be wisdom in us as accountable beings to God to spare no diligence in preparing to receive the final sentence to the immortal part, for when we least think it, death may greet us.

Resolved, That we, the members of the Lodge, do sorrow most of all for his untimely death, and we will fondly cherish the memory of his life in the association of some by years, and follow his footsteps to the Grand Lodge above, where we do confidently hope that his soul will bloom in eternal spring.

Resolved, That we deeply and cordially sympathize with our brother's bereaved father and mother, sister and brother, and nephews, relations and friends, and extend to them our warmest sympathy, and as a token of our sorrow we will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the parents of our brother, and also to the Fayetteville Observer for publication, with a request that the Raleigh papers please copy.

H. A. BIZZELL,
A. A. McKOY,
B. B. HOLDER,
S. D. JACKSON,
ISAIAH McPHAIL,
Com.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM TEXAS

Correspondence of the Lynchburg Daily Republican.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, Dec. 9, 1864.

Dear Republican—I arrived here a few days since, having been seventy days on the route from Lynchburg. The trip to the east bank of the Mississippi river was accomplished without any difficulty; but the crossing of the river, and the subsequent danger on this side, in the swamps, from yankees, jayhawkers and deserters, was attended with great peril.

I had great difficulty in procuring a conveyance to Monroe, La., at which place I took stage for Shreveport.

At Shreveport there are large government shops, manufacturing cannon, muskets, ordnance stores, &c.

Great confidence was felt in Gen. Smith, and the ability of our army, on this side, to resist the invaders. Confederate money was the only currency in circulation, but I found after getting about 100 miles southwest of Shreveport, that specie was made the basis, and I had to pay my expenses either with specie or its market value, 20 for 1, in Confederate new issue. Stage fare in Texas is 10 cents a mile in specie, or $2 in Confederate money.

Thirty days since Confederate currency was worth in Houston and in this city, 40 for 1. To-day it sold here 15 for 1, and is in great demand. It is thought it will be worth 5 for 1 before the 1st of January.

All the business done here is in specie, and principally in Mexican dollars. It is no unusual sight to see a planter unload his cotton, and reload with the proceeds in Mexican (silver) dollars—5,000 of which will weigh about 900 pounds. Goods are 300 per cent higher on an average than they were sold at before the war. For instance, Calicoes are worth at wholesale 40 cents, Coffee 45 cents, Sugar 25 cents, and provisions of all kinds are at exorbitant prices. Yet money (specie) is abundant, and everybody here seems to spend it as lavishly as the people of Virginia did Confederate money.

The hotels and boarding houses are crowded—not a vacant house in the city can be found—and yet crowds of strangers are arriving every day. The majority of them are foreigners from Mexico, England and France, purchasing cotton and bringing in goods in exchange.

The government is getting immense supplies for the army, and at a very slight cost. General Smith has contracted for supplies, to be paid in cotton, delivered on the Rio Grande at the market price in specie. The schedule price for cotton is 25 cents per pound in Confederate money, and as the government has its own transportation, it makes a big thing out of the transaction.

It is estimated that the Confederate tax in this city for 1865 will amount to over six millions of dollars. A merchant who does a business of $10,000 per month in specie, has to pay $5,000 tax in Confederate money, on his sales alone—the tax on specie being rated 20 for 1. This, you will observe is the cause of Confederate money looking up—the tax collector being the best funding agent after all.

The Agent of the Treasury Department on this side of the Mississippi has given notice that after the 1st of January he will receive the tax on specie at the rate of 5 for 1, which I have no doubt will tend greatly to strengthen the currency.

Large quantities of Tobacco are coming in, and a good article of Virginia manufactured sells from $1,50 $2,00. Texas Tobacco in the leaf sells at 50 cents. It should be understood I quote specie prices. I saw some tobacco to day that was manufactured in Kentucky, and was shipped to this place via New Orleans and Matamoras. Negro men command $400 to $600, and women $300 to $500.

C.

From Wilmington.—Some heavy firing was heard here yesterday afternoon, from two gunboats shelling Fort Anderson. No damage was done to the Fort. We think some thirty to forty very heavy reports were heard jarring the windows in the town very perceptibly. There were six of our men wounded, two of them seriously. There were two monitors in the river, but neither came near enough to participate. The fort replied and put a shot through one of the gunboats, compelling her to haul off.—*Journal, 4th.*

Sherman's Movements.—The enemy are believed to be pushing forward towards Branchville.—*Char. Courier, 3d.*

Our scouts from Salkehatchie report there is only one division of the enemy remaining at Pocotaligo. It is composed solely of Foster's troops. One brigade is encamped on the road to Salkehatchie bridge, one on the road parallel to the river road, and one on the McPhersonville road. They are very near Pocotaligo, and within easy supporting distance of each other. Very few troops are at Pocotaligo, and they are fortifying.

Charleston Courier, 4th.

Grant Reinforced by part of Thomas's Troops.—We have reason to believe that Grant has been reinforced by the greater portion of Thomas's army, recently operating against Hood in Middle Tennessee. Large numbers of troops, variously estimated at from fifteen to thirty thousand men, have, within the past ten days, been brought eastward over the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and are now concentrating under Grant's banners below Richmond. It is believed that Thomas can spare thirty thousand men for operations here, and still retain an army of thirty thousand on the Tennessee.

Having received this accession of strength, Grant will doubtless résume active operations against Richmond and Petersburg so soon as the weather and roads will permit.

Richmond Dispatch, 4th.

Loss of the Steamer Rattlesnake.—The fine steamer Rattlesnake, from Nassau (N. P.) in attempting to run the blockade off this port, went ashore on Long Island about three o'clock Friday morning. The Rattlesnake is said to be the consort of the Tallahassee. Two thirds of her cargo were on Government account, and consisted of coffee, bacon, &c.—*Char. Courier, 4th.*

A Strange Story.—The Baltimore American of the 31st says:

"The New York Tribune gives all the prominence of double leaded type to a ridiculous story that a secret league of the Roman Catholic Powers—France, Spain and Austria—under the guidance and with the express concurrence of the Pope, has been formed, pledged to recognize the Rebel Confederacy on or immediately after the 4th March next, under the pretext that the Union will thereafter consist of those States only which participated in the late Presidential election, and in the choice of members of the next Congress. The whole story is the most absurd stuff, and calculated, if not designed, for the New York gold room."

Spirit of the Army.—Entire commands of the army are daily expressing, in public meetings, their determination to maintain this war for independence until that grand end shall be accomplished.—*Petersburg Express, 4th.*

Ex Senator Foote, familiarly known as Hangman Foote, came into Sheridan's lines yesterday, and, as he declined to take the oath of allegiance, will be sent here under arrest.—*Phila. Inq., 31st.*